




## **LAFAYETTE LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER**

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# **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**City of Lafayette  
January 2004**

 **Twelve** preeminent *cultural institutions*  
and **two** *school districts*  
*banding together* to create a **learning community**  
greater than the sum of its parts.

**This has never been tried before,** *this collaboration of elementary school teachers and zoo keepers and hospital doctors and Shakespearian thespians, of planetary scientists and greenbelt advocates, of college and university professors and museum curators, all gathering in a single place, a stone and wood suburban library, where children, parents, and grandparents are enriched by great literature, research technology, afternoon programs, nighttime exhibits, civic lectures, beautiful music, spoken words, expert classes, and hands-on workshops.*

***This has never been tried before, but it's what Lafayette needs. And if it works here, it can be a model for libraries up and down the State of California and across the nation.***



**T**he best libraries reflect the values, interests, and passions of the communities they serve. When the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center opens its doors it will do just that. Not only will the new library replace a woefully worn-out facility, it will also reflect Lafayette residents' deep commitment to children, education, and lifelong learning.

In the spirit of Lafayette's extraordinary commitment to education, the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center will also be home to a distinguished new resource: **The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium.**

A dozen of the Bay Area's most prestigious educational and cultural resources will offer programs at a single site: the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center. **This Consortium will be the first of its kind at any American public library.** Through the Consortium, named in honor of Nobel Prize winner and 45-year Lafayette resident Glenn Seaborg, a wealth of collaborative learning materials, workshops, archives, exhibits, K-12 curricula, lectures, and discovery centers will be available to the community and its children.

**Joey Rodger, President of the Chicago-based *Urban Libraries Council*, writes:**

*Many national conversations are being held about the value of collaborative work among community based institutions that support free-choice learning. The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium has taken this thinking to a whole new level. . . . **The vision you have for the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center goes so far beyond that it should be a national demonstration project.***

As you will see, Lafayette has worked hard to create the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, and the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium. Thank you in advance for your careful review of our efforts.

## **OVERALL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Lafayette needs a new library. Like so many suburban California cities, Lafayette's population swelled mightily after the Second World War. With a few thousand residents in 1945, and just over 7,000 in 1960, the townspeople thought they had planned adequately when they built and stocked, in 1962, a new library with 15,000 books. Forty two years later that same library building, its 6,720 square feet essentially unaltered, serves nearly 24,000 residents and is jammed to the rafters with 60,658 volumes – three times its planned capacity of 20,000. So tight is the space that the Lafayette library must now withdraw an old book every time it buys a new one, and more than a third of Lafayette's patrons are forced to travel to another community because they can not find what they need in their own city library.

Despite bookshelves that are not seismically anchored, despite the fact that 9% of Lafayette's population is disabled but wheelchairs cannot fit in library bathrooms, despite myriad other deficiencies, the old library is remarkably busy. Five hundred people visit the tiny branch each day and Lafayette's circulation per capita is higher than that of any similarly sized community in the county.

Given the city's high educational standards and longstanding commitment to primary education, the bustling nature of the library is not surprising. Quality public schools are the primary reason that people move to Lafayette, with an estimated 4,741 students now enrolled. All of Lafayette's six public schools earned perfect "10"s on their 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 API scores. The adults are well-educated, too: 30% of Lafayette's adult population reported on the 2000 census that they had attended graduate school.

Lafayette's safe, compact, walkable downtown makes it easy for people to enjoy the library, further increasing its popularity. Seniors over 55, who comprise 26% of the community's population, typically fill the old library in the morning hours. Since Lafayette's middle school is less than a half-mile from the library, teenagers flood the place from 3 to 5PM. Afternoons are the busiest time, so busy that on most days there is nowhere left to sit. So busy that students often stand in queues to use the library's twelve computers.

Faced with this combination of yawning shortfalls, intense use, high community expectations, and dire needs, after years of informal discussions and formal studies, in 1996 the City agreed to purchase the old library from the County and build a new one. Since that time, Lafayette has embraced an inclusive, expansive, and detailed process for gathering information and community input about the new library: where it should be located, how it will look, and what types of programs and services should be offered inside. Important milestones include:

- In **1996**, an assessment of the existing Library concluded that it would be more cost-effective to raze the current structure and rebuild.
- In **1997**, 400 Lafayette voters were randomly surveyed regarding their support for a new library. 81% said that the library's book collection should be expanded, and a majority supported a bond measure.
- From **1998 through 2000**, the Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force, with thirty one representatives from throughout the community, undertook a massive effort to determine library use, needs, and preferences. Surveys were completed by 582 people, eleven focus groups were conducted with eighty-eight residents, and twenty-seven major stakeholders were interviewed.

- In **2001**, a report analyzed three final sites, leading to public hearings where sixty one members of the public spoke and a final site was identified and embraced.
- In **2003**, 175 students, parents, teachers, librarians, and school administrators completed library needs surveys. The City also conducted an architectural competition and invited all members of the community to participate in the architect selection. Almost 900 people stood in line over a two-day period to view four entries, and 357 people submitted written comments about the library designs. Later, after several public hearings, City Council, Design Review, and Planning Commission members all unanimously approved the final design for the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

**T**he upshot of this community process, involving perhaps 4,000 residents over the last eight years, is a finely tuned vision for the new facility, and architect Wade Killefer has created a beautiful design that translates this vision into reality. Outside, the stone and wood structure meanders down a hill, embracing open air plazas and balconies along the way. Inside, the tall, airy space holds 90,000 volumes – a 50% increase over the current collection – and a fireplace with comfortable chairs for reading. In addition to meeting adult needs, the building features a children's library, homework center, teen room and several conference rooms for private tutoring to meet the needs of Lafayette's toddler and student populations.

The new Lafayette Library & Learning Center also represents a huge technological leap for the community. Given the City's demographics, it is not surprising that the community expects Lafayette to be a leader in access to information – yet the old library has just twelve public access computers. The new facility responds to Lafayette's needs with forty-two computers: twenty six in open areas (including ten sit-down units for children), ten sit-down workstations in the technology lab, four sit-down workstations in the homework center, and two in the teen area. The building will also be wireless-friendly.

While the structure and technology is impressive, Lafayette residents expect their new library to be more than just a big new building, more than a repository of books, more than a tech center, more than a comfortable place to read. Given the community's longstanding interest and investment in education, it is not surprising that in focus groups, interviews, and surveys, Lafayette residents said, repeatedly, that the library should encourage learning among all of the generations who reside in Lafayette. For these reasons, the City has given at least as much consideration to the programs and partners that will enrich the library as to the physical structure itself. **It is Lafayette's emphasis on the creation of rich library partnerships and programs that distinguishes this project.**

All of the public schools, for instance, stepped forward with substantive plans to deliver programs to K-12 students at the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center. One example, *Reading Rocks*, is an after-school reading intervention program to be offered at the library, taught by school district personnel. Other school programs will serve a broad array of ages, including the *Generations in Jazz Program* that will provide opportunities for different generations to perform jazz music together at the new library.

**M**ost notably, Lafayette has plans to bring a dozen of the Bay Area's most distinguished educational organizations into the community via **The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium**. Named in honor of the Nobel Prize winner, twelve consortium partners and two school districts will design and offer curricula, exhibits, symposia, lectures, and other educational opportunities at the new library. To accommodate these partners, the architect has incorporated an arts-and-sciences laboratory with thirty-six work stations and attendant preparation space, and a large community room – designed for maximum flexibility – that can seat 142 people for concerts, lectures, author talks, and other cultural events.

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

### **Executive Summary**

Since the first three houses were built in 1848, Lafayette residents have cared deeply about improving and preserving their quality of life. Children, schools, lifelong education and a library have always been important, and the community has been and will continue to be part of Lafayette's culture. Community input is achieved through diverse methodologies in Lafayette, all designed to accommodate the broad and deep interest levels that citizens have in local affairs, and to encourage involvement, gather input, and reach consensus among all Lafayette residents.

The methodologies used to reach consensus on a new library, now called the Lafayette Library & Learning Center (LL&LC), were designed to encourage involvement and solicit input from all segments of the community. Everyone had numerous opportunities to participate:

- Foster community discussion by keeping residents informed:
  - Reading *Vistas*, the City of Lafayette's quarterly newsletter that is sent to every household and business in the community
  - Receiving a notice from the City about one of the 37 public meetings since late 1996 to discuss some aspect of the library
  - Reading a display ad in the newspaper about a public meeting or other event regarding the library
  - Noticing one of the City's A-frame signs at a street intersection with information about a public meeting about the library
  - Noticing the banner on the City's Community Sign Board regarding an exhibit of architect's design concepts for the library
- Identifying the needs of children, teens, adults, seniors, students, parents, school faculties and officials, business owners, and community organizations, including the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, through:
  - Responding to a 1994 survey of Lafayette voters on the preferred use of tax dollars
  - Responding to a 1997 survey of Lafayette voters about their library
  - Responding to a 1997 survey of Contra Costa County voters about a tax increase to improve library services
  - Completing an in-house survey at the library that was conducted by the Friends of the Lafayette Library in 2000

- Participating in one of the eleven focus groups conducted by the Friends and Lafayette Community Foundation in 2000
  - Participating in one of the 27 stakeholder interviews conducted by the Friends and the Foundation in 2000
  - Participating as a parent, student, teacher, school media specialist or school administrator in a survey conducted by Synergy Associates in 2003
- Selecting the Veterans Memorial Building property, from twelve potential sites in the center of Lafayette, as the site for the LL&LC through:
  - Being a member of the City Offices Task Force or attending one of the public meetings in 1996 and 1997 regarding the Task Force's findings about library sites
  - Being a member of Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force, reading the Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force Report, or attending the town hall meeting held jointly in 1999 by the City Council and Lafayette School District about potential sites for the library
  - Being a member of the City's Library Building Committee or attending a day-long public walking tour of twelve potential sites
  - Participating in one of the 16 public meetings about potential sites
- Selecting Killefer Flammang Architects as the Project Architect from a field of some of the West Coast's most creative and experienced architectural firms by:
  - Participating in the design competition for the Project Architect by attending the two-day public exhibit of the final architectural proposals
  - Completing one of the 357 comment cards submitted at the competition exhibit
  - Attending the presentations by the four final firms to the Library Building Committee
- Contributing to the development of an outstanding conceptual design for the LL&LC through:
  - Attending the hands-on design workshop held by Killefer Flammang
  - Attending one of the seven public meetings about the conceptual design
  - Viewing the conceptual design at the two-day Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

**T**he process was inclusive, expansive, and detailed. Consensus was reached that Lafayette not only needs a new library, it needs the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

## The Methodologies

### Staying Informed – Public Information and Discussion

Lafayette's long tradition of community involvement includes public discussion about issues that are important to the community and that affect the community's quality of life. To solicit input and stimulate discussions, the City provides public information through multiple methods.

#### Lafayette Vistas

In 1992, the City began publishing *Vistas*, a community newsletter produced four times a year and distributed to all households and businesses in Lafayette. About 12,000 issues are distributed quarterly. The goal of *Vistas* is to educate and inform Lafayette citizens about city issues and events. Since 1992, stories about the library have appeared 17 times, including six front page articles. A sample of the articles includes:

- **Fall 1996** -- Announced and described City Offices Task Force recommendation to proceed with building a new Library in downtown Lafayette.



- **Spring 1997** -- Included a front-page update on the library:

*At 6,720 square feet, the 35-year old building falls significantly below the minimum recommended floor space for Lafayette's population; the County recommends at least 14,000 square feet. Despite being the smallest library space in the Lamorinda (i.e., Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda) area, circulation is the highest; 216,000 books per year with 1,000 more users each week than Moraga's library and 600 more than Orinda's. To best serve the community, Lafayette's librarians focus special efforts on a modern and up-to-date children's book section. In the rest of the library they cull outdated and worn books from the stacks, an effort that was intensified after the roof leaked during last winter's storms.*

In the "Lafayette HeartBeat" column, there was a special focus on community volunteers:

Lafayette's Garden Club launched a community effort to spruce up the Lafayette Library grounds during Spring 1997. Project chairman Maureen Owens worked with the Contra Costa County Grounds Division to plant drought tolerant native plants in areas without sprinklers, and flowering azalea, rhododendron and camellias in irrigated areas. Climbing roses grace a long barren arbor in the library patio area. Plants and supplies were donated by Harry's Nursery, Lafayette Tree and Landscape and Diamond K Supply. Shell Oil and the National Council of Garden Clubs provided a \$250 grant. Members of the Friends of the Library and the Lafayette Rotary assisted Garden Club members during a number of work and planting sessions. Lafayette School students and members of Girl Scout Troop 632 contributed handcrafted stepping stones.

- **Winter 1998** -- Announced the beginning of the year-long celebration for Lafayette's Sesquicentennial (1848-1998). Proceeds from celebration events and collectibles went towards a new library with a Lafayette Museum Lafayette ...creating an even better Lafayette for the next millennium.
- **Fall 1999** cover story -- *Council to Hold Town Hall Meeting About the Lafayette Library.*

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## LAFAYETTE VISTAS

### COUNCIL TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING ABOUT THE LAFAYETTE LIBRARY

**H**ave you ever been to the Lafayette Library? Does it meet your family's needs? Could the facility be improved, or is it fine as is? What responsibilities does the library have to provide internet and technology services?

There are just a few of the important issues that City Council and School Board members will discuss at a special "Town Hall" meeting on October 12th. We hope you'll join them at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 N. Mary's Road. The meeting will be in the Mainstage Room and begins at 7pm.

*Task Force To Present Report*

Over the past several years, local library supporters have attempted to address two substantial library issues: (1) for the services provided by the library (e.g., hours of operation, staffing levels, etc.); and (2) for the Lafayette Library facility conditions, or can it be improved?

Regarding the first question, many services are provided by Contra Costa County, and there have been broad discussions about their sufficiency. Voters were asked in 1998 to approve a 10th cent sales tax measure to supplement the county's library operations; that measure would have increased the library's hours of operation from the current 28 hours per week to 34 hours per week. The vote required a 2/3rds majority for passage and though it was supported by 60% of Lafayette voters, the measure failed on a county-wide basis, generating 61.7% of the vote. At press time, the County's Board of Supervisors was actively discussing other alternatives to generate new funding for the system.

To address the second question -- is the Lafayette Library satisfactory? -- the Lafayette City Council and School Board last year jointly approved a "Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force". The group was charged with developing a strategic plan for bringing the Lafayette Library into the next century, and has issued a written report (available at the City Office and at [www.lafayette-ca.net](http://www.lafayette-ca.net)). The Task Force will present its written report at the October 12th Town Hall meeting, following on their key facts and findings.

*The Library Isn't Big Enough*

The Lafayette Library circulates 250,000 books each year, and averages about 500 patrons per day. It is one of the smallest of the twenty-four branches in the County, but is the fourth most heavily used. When it opened in 1982, the Lafayette Library had 15,000 books and was planned for a maximum

capacity of 20,000 books; the library currently contains about 65,000 items -- more than 300% of capacity! The library opened with 200 reference books; it now holds more than 2,400. The Task Force thus notes that "...the Lafayette Library lacks space for its current collection and has no room for collection growth."

*The Current Location is Fine*

The Task Force suggests that residents like the general location of the library on Ortega Road near Lafayette School. In a 1987 survey conducted for the City, more than 85% of those polled said that the current site was satisfactory, nearly half rated the site as "very convenient".

*Plan for Accommodating Changing Technology*

The Task Force was particularly interested in how technology is changing the way libraries operate. Today, information is stored in a wide variety of ways, including cassette, CD-ROMs, Internet, e-mail, CDs, MP3, and others.

These new formats require space not planned for in the current facility, as well as a complex wiring upgrade. Given the digitalization of almost all information sources, the Task Force notes that "a dedicated hall area needs to be developed, continuously assessed, and maintained as an information forum for the library user." The report suggests that the library should aggressively accommodate technological change.

*How Can Library Improvements Be Financed?*

Contra Costa County currently owns and maintains the Lafayette Library. However, given its limited funding sources and the many social services that it is required to provide, the County does not have money to improve the Lafayette Library. The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, has thus agreed to purchase the facility from the County and upgrade it to meet the needs of local users. This transfer of ownership is not inconsistent of the twenty-four branch building in the system, only nine remain under County ownership.

These upgrades could be costly (the proposed new Orinda library, for instance, is estimated to cost about \$10 million). Fortunately, however, community members have supported the Lafayette Library with overwhelming generosity. As has been previously reported in the Vistas, the monthly Friends of the Lafayette Library raises over \$25,000 annually for the sole benefit of the library through its bi-monthly sale of used books. The money is used to pay for new materials, furniture, and operating expenses.

*(Continued on page 2)*





- **Spring 2002** cover story -- *Cooperative Effort Leads to Plan for New Vets' Hall...and Clears the Way for New Library*



- **Fall 2002** – Highlighted the Lafayette Community Foundation on the front page:

*The Lafayette Community Foundation has taken on the formidable task of raising capital funds for the new Lafayette Library. A new library – needed, discussed and dreamt about for years – will soon become a reality through a collaborative public and private effort.*

- **Winter 2003** – Discussed latest event concerning the new library on the front page and invited the community to attend the Project Architect competition.



- **Spring 2003** – Featured an article on the winning conceptual design and invited the community to attend Killefer Flammang's hands-on design workshop.
- **Winter 2004** – A cover story on the final design for the new library and a full page article announcing and describing the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium.



## Newspaper Articles

There has been much interest over the last eight years by local newspapers in the developing plans for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. An estimated 50 articles have been published since 1996, and the public has benefited by reading these articles. Sample recent articles include:

- **Front Page:** "Lafayette plans to create super-size library hybrid," *Contra Costa Times*, Monday, January 5, 2005.

*Lafayette residents and city leaders are revolutionizing the concept of libraries with their plan for the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium at the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center.*

- **Sunday Editorial Page:** "Home, work, and library," *San Francisco Chronicle*, Sunday, January 11, 2004.

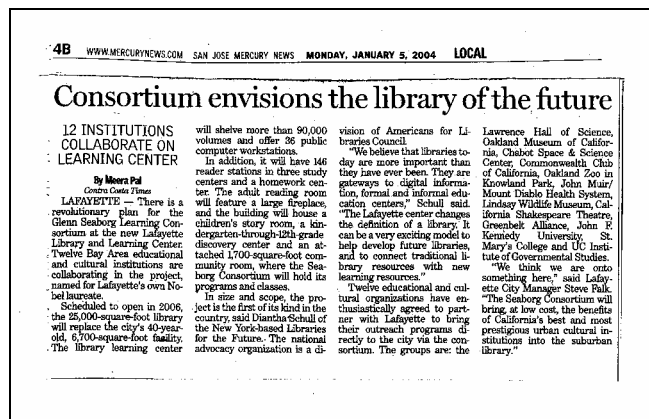
*Pending a final vote Monday, the city of Lafayette is about to embark on a \$22 million project to put learning and debate at the heart of community life.*

- **Editorial Page:** "Lamorinda is skating into 2004," *Contra Costa Sun*, Wednesday January 7, 2004.

*This project is the first of its kind anywhere in the U.S., and something that will make the city – and the entire region – proud. . . .*

- **Main Section:** "Consortium envisions the library of the future," *San Jose Mercury News*, Monday, January 5, 2004.

*In size and scope, the project is the first of its kind in the country.*



- **Bay Area Section:** "Lafayette approves pioneering library," *San Francisco Chronicle*, Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

*The proposal has garnered national attention from such organizations as the Urban Libraries Council and the Libraries for the Future, which have praised the mix of programs that go beyond a traditional library.*



## ***TV and Radio***

The Lafayette Library & Learning Center was the subject of a radio article on January 13, 2004, broadcast Bay Area-wide by KCBS All News 740. The City of Lafayette does not operate a public access television program, but the LL&LC will be featured on UPN Weekend News, channel 12, on January 25, 2004.

## ***Public Noticing***

Lafayette has a comprehensive public noticing program designed to bring out community input. An example of the effectiveness of Lafayette's public noticing efforts can be found in the creation of the Lafayette Redevelopment Project and adoption of the Redevelopment Plan in 1994. The primary purpose of this Plan was, and still is, to stimulate and encourage the revitalization of the 294-acre Project Area, which covers most of the Mount Diablo Blvd. corridor and downtown. Included in the adopted Plan was a program of community facilities projects that included the rebuilding or upgrading of the Lafayette Library.

The Plan, along with the library rebuilding or upgrading project, underwent an extensive community input process. Notices with an informational brochure were sent to every property owner, resident and business within the proposed Project Area. Notices were published in the newspaper once a week for four weeks. Two public information workshops and two public hearings were held. After reaching community consensus through the workshops and hearings, the Plan was adopted setting the stage for a new library.

A significant step on this stage was taken in 1996 when Contra Costa County, County Fire Protection District, County Flood Control District, City of Lafayette, Lafayette City Council and Lafayette Redevelopment Agency entered into an agreement regarding tax increments and the purchase of the Lafayette Library by the LRDA. Specifically, the agreement requires the LRDA to purchase the Library property from the County on or before June 30, 2011 at fair market value. The money received by the County from this purchase will be expended on mutually agreed Lafayette Library uses. The major import of this document is that Lafayette agreed to build, maintain and be responsible for what had previously been a responsibility of the County: the library.

## ***Advertising***

To stimulate public discussion, since 1996, Lafayette has made extensive use of display ads in the newspaper, A-frame signs on neighborhood and downtown roadways, and a Community Sign Board at the center of town. Before there is a public meeting or event about a community issue, large display ads are run in the local paper. The City places A-frame signs at street intersections around the community informing residents about a meeting. The City also posts 5' x 8' banners on its Community Sign Board at the busiest intersection in the community, the corner of Mount Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road. A banner at this location is visible to approximately 34,000 vehicles every weekday. Newspaper advertising and the use of these two types of signs resulted in approximately 900 people visiting the Library Project Architect competition.

## Studies and Reports

Lafayette has also used studies and reports regarding the library to provide additional information to the public and soliciting community input. There were five significant studies and reports, described below, that played instrumental roles in the site selection process and the community's strong support for the Veterans Memorial Building property as the site for the new library.

- In 1969, an assessment of the physical and service conditions of the library was prepared by John Lyon Reid Associates for the Lafayette Library Association with participation by the Lafayette School District Governing Board, Parent-Teacher Associations, Lafayette Improvement Association, and Lafayette Chapter of the American Association of University Women. This study assessment concluded that, **Lafayette must double its library facilities by 1970 to meet the recommended national minimum standards for a community its present size.** As reported in the Contra Costa Times on August 10, 1969, **...this means that when Lafayette's newest and only library was built in 1962, it was still inadequate by 2,280 square feet to meet its then-population of 7,800.**
- In 1996, an assessment of the library building for use as a school administration office was prepared for the Lafayette School District by Arthur Tam & Associates. The consultant concluded **it would be more cost-effective to raze the building and rebuild rather than repair the existing structure.** The District did not have sufficient funds for the project and dropped further consideration of the site. (See page 97 for additional details.)
- In 1997, a report and site analysis was prepared by BSA Architects for the City Offices Task Force after the Task Force recommended that the City Council build a new library and city hall in the downtown (see page 22 for more information regarding the City Offices Task Force). The Council and Planning Commission held two joint public meetings to hear presentations by BSA on the feasibility of a library and city hall on four sites within the downtown: BART Station Block; Veterans Memorial Building property; Lincoln Family property; and a combination of the Veterans and Lincoln properties.

*I am concerned about access to the library since children are accustomed to going there after school. Access for the elderly is important. It is hard to imagine any of them crossing Mount Diablo Blvd. to get to the library.* – Planning Commissioner Jeanne Ateljevich, City Council / Planning Commission meeting, February 13, 1997

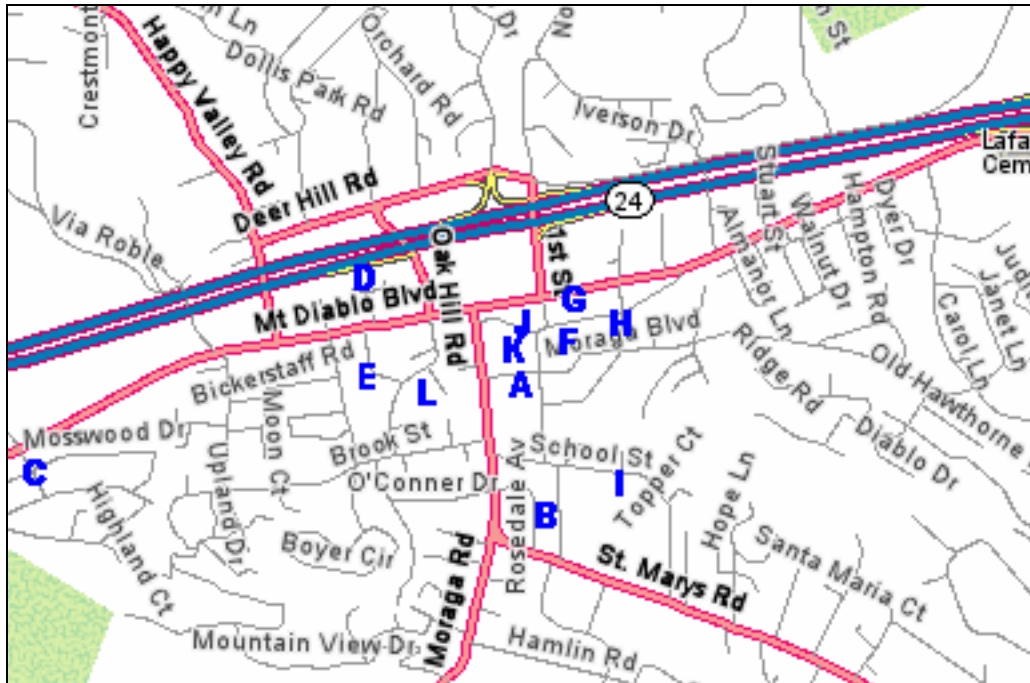
*The library at the Veterans site is a wonderful idea and spreads out the synergy.*  
– Sereta Churchill, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, City Council / Planning Commission meeting, February 13, 1997

**The City Offices Task Force reported that its survey of residents showed that many people preferred the library on the south side of Mount Diablo Blvd., and that the Police Department preferred the Veterans site due to its proximity to the schools and safety for children. While many members of the public voiced support at the meetings for the Veterans site, there was concern that this was not the most feasible site since it was occupied by the Veterans Memorial Building.**

- In 2000, Anne Marie Gold of Library Management Consultants prepared the *Comparative Site Evaluation Matrix* for use by the City Council-appointed Library Building Committee (see page 27 for more information about the LBC). The matrix compared features of 12 sites within the downtown and their suitability for the development of a new library (see Attachment 1 for a copy of the Matrix). It was

used on a one-day public walking tour of the 12 sites hosted by the City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Commission, and the Library Building Committee. Twenty-six members of these groups and additional members of the public participated in the tour.

### Exhibit A Map of Twelve Sites Considered for New Lafayette Library



Using the results of the Matrix and public comments at a subsequent joint meeting, the Council, Planning and Design Review Commissions and LBC narrowed the number of sites, first to five (existing library site, Veterans property, Lincoln property, St. Mary's Road property, and Union 76/Petco property), and then to just three: Veterans; Lincoln; and Union 76/Petco.

- In 2001, an economic feasibility report was prepared for the City Council by Berkeley-based Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. regarding these final three sites. **The report found that the Lincoln and Union 76/Petco properties would be significantly more expensive to develop than the Veterans property.** In addition, 20 units of affordable housing in the downtown would be lost if the Lincoln property was chosen. The report led to three public hearings by the Council regarding the three sites; a total of 61 members of the public spoke at these meetings with the community consensus being the Veterans property as the preferred site. At the last meeting, the Council selected the Veterans Memorial Building property as the site for the new Library.

Immediately after the site selection, the City, County and local Veterans organizations met to develop an agreement for the acquisition of the new site for the Veterans building, construction of a new Veterans building, and acquisition of the old Veterans site for the library. The City, County and Veterans subsequently approved the *Memorandum of Understanding Among Contra Costa County, Lafayette*

*Redevelopment Agency, City of Lafayette and Lafayette War Veterans, Inc. for the Central County Veterans Memorial Hall Project (see Attachment 2 for a copy of the MOU).*

### **Focus Groups, Interviews and Surveys**

Other traditional methodologies used by Lafayette to assess the library needs of the community included focus groups, interviews and surveys.

#### **The 1994 Survey**

In August 1994, the City retained Dr. Brad Senden to conduct a survey of 400 Lafayette residents on their preferred use of tax dollars. The survey showed the first priority was street maintenance. But **the second highest priority for tax dollars was new money for libraries. In fact, libraries consistently were considered more important than parks and recreation, police, open space, and all other priorities in the survey.**

#### **The 1997 Surveys**

In June 1997, the City again engaged Dr. Senden to conduct a randomly sampled, statistically significant survey of 400 Lafayette voters specifically about the library. Results of those surveyed were:

- **60% favored a bond for a new library**
- **69% would be more likely to support a bond if the funds were to allow the library to provide computer-based reference and Internet services**
- **81% wanted to expand the Library's book collection**
- **62% did not believe the Library had enough space to meet local needs**
- **86% thought the Library was not in great physical shape**

In October 1997, Dr. Senden conducted another survey regarding libraries. This one was of 1,000 voters countywide about the County Library system. The survey was conducted to determine voter interest in supporting a tax increase to improve library services:

**Table A**  
**Lafayette Voter Priorities Compared With County Voters in 1997 County Survey**

<b>Voter Priority</b>	<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Contra Costa County (includes Lafayette data)</b>
Higher than countywide average		
More consistent schedule of hours	86.4%	81.2%
Open branch library on weekends	86.4%	81.4%
Purchase reference books	86.3%	77.1%
Increase number of hours	80.9%	75.2%
Easier access to computers	62.7%	57.4%
Similar to countywide average		
Purchase children's books	82.7%	81.0%
Buy more books	81.8%	84.2%
Tutoring center for teens	74.6%	74.7%
Lower than countywide average		
More after-school programs	68.6%	77.9%
Purchase AV materials	56.9%	60.5%
Purchase business materials	50.8%	58.5%
Purchase non-English books	15.3%	25.3%

*Source: Center for Community Opinion Survey, October 1997*

### **Library In-House Survey**

In May 2000, the Friends of the Lafayette Library conducted an in-house survey at the library. The survey was developed by Anne Marie Gold of Library Management Consultants, and the Friends received training in survey-taking provided by the County Library staff. The Friends received 582 completed surveys. The complete results are in Attachment 3 and summarized below:

- **89% of the respondents visited the Library at least once a month with 60% of the respondents visiting at least once a week.**
- The top five reasons for visiting the library were:
  - *Checked out materials for myself*
  - *Returned library materials*
  - *Looked for specific materials / information by myself*
  - *Browsed for general materials / information by myself*
  - *Checked out materials for someone else*
- When asked what services and collections would cause them to use the library more often, 66% of the responses cited the following:
  - *More video and audio tapes*
  - *More bestsellers*
  - *More reference materials*
  - *More computers*



- 46% of the responses said the spaces in a new library of most interest would be:
  - *Comfortable reading / browsing area*
  - *Comfortable seating*
  - *Quiet study areas*
  
- When asked for comments regarding preferred architectural style for a new library, some of the responses were:
  - *Good lighting, natural lighting*
  - *Environmentally sound building*
  - *Location is most important – near schools, downtown*
  - *Better parking*
  
- The ages of the survey respondents were:

**Table B**  
**Age of Library In-House Survey Respondents**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Percentage of Respondents</i>
Under 13	4.4%
13 – 18	5.8%
19 – 24	1.9%
25 – 55	62.1%
56 – 70	16.7%
Over 70	9.1%

*Source: Library In-House Survey, 2000*

### *Focus Groups*

In May and June 2000, eleven focus groups were conducted by the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Lafayette Community Foundation. **Major findings of the focus group interviews are that the old library is small and unattractive, with an inadequate collection and poor furniture and amenities.** Focus group questions again were developed by Anne Marie Gold of Library Management Consultants, and the Friends and Foundation members received training provided by County Library staff. The focus groups included 88 people from different community organizations:

**Acalanes High School**

21 Advanced Placement  
students  
1 teacher  
1 school librarian

**Community Organizations**

Marechal Duncan  
Ruth Dyer  
Sue George  
Anne Grodin  
Linda Sorensen  
Janice Crosetti-Titmus  
Thomas Titmus

**Friends of the Lafayette  
Library**

Catherine Ahr  
Sally Bellenger  
Suzanne Boldt  
Joan Bruzzone  
Doris Duncan  
Mary Ann Hoisington  
Gladys Laston  
Kitty Locke  
Joan Merryman  
Wayne Merryman  
Betty Sullivan

**Homeowners Associations**

Arnie Bryer  
Jack Coulter  
Jim Fitzsimmons  
Joe Garrtiy  
Lynn Hiden  
Brad Kisner  
Byrne Mathisen  
Mark Mitchell  
Annette Roberge  
Jim Todhunter  
Cliff Tong  
Mary-Jane Wood

**Preschools**

Gail Clarke  
Gretchen Johnsonbaugh

**Religious Groups**

Lee Berg  
Margaret Lacy  
Addie Moller  
Marilyn Ragan  
Dorothy Stewart

**Service Clubs:**

Cal Lee  
Kelly Mains  
Cayo Marschner

Fran Miller  
Sande Robert  
Dave Tedesco  
Glenn Vivrette

**Women's Organizations**

Joan Allebrand  
Diddo Clark  
Ivy Danforth  
Alice Johnson  
Betty Krueger  
Lise Ridings  
Jennifer Russell  
Phillip Sinnott  
Irene Van Overeen

**Senior Services Commission**

Scotty Loucks

**Youth Commission**

8 Commissioners (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
grade)  
1 adult advisor

**Youth / Education  
Organizations**

Wendy Levich  
Alyce Traverso

The groups responded to 13 questions. These questions and samples of responses are below. Attachment 4 includes the complete set of responses.

- How often do you use the library?
  - *Weekly (Preschools)*
  - *Used to visit the Library when the children were young (Seniors)*
  - *Monthly (Service Clubs)*
- When you use the library, what materials or services do you usually use?
  - *Internet access (Acalanes High School)*
  - *Borrow fiction and nonfiction bestsellers (Friends of the Lafayette Library)*
  - *Children's books and videos (Women's Organizations)*
- If you don't use the library, why not?
  - *Too little space, access, chairs (Community Organizations)*
  - *Shelves are difficult to access (Homeowners Associations)*

- *Building is small and depressing (Religious Groups)*
- How else do you meet your information needs?
  - *Internet (Service Clubs)*
  - *St. Mary's College Library (Youth Commission)*
  - *Buy books (Friends of the Lafayette Library)*
- How would you describe library services in Lafayette to someone from out of town?
  - *Inadequate services (Community Organizations)*
  - *Cramped (Women's Organizations)*
  - *Appalling (Youth / Educational Organizations)*
- How might a new library in Lafayette benefit you / members of your group?
  - *A meeting room could be used by many groups (Homeowners Associations)*
  - *The collections would be larger (Preschools)*
  - *Quiet study areas (Youth Commission)*
- What would make you proud of a new library in Lafayette?
  - *More computers and Internet access (Friends of the Lafayette Library)*
  - *Lafayette residents of all ages making use of the Library (Women's Organizations)*
  - *The Library as a place that draws the community together (Religious Groups)*
- What type of architectural image would you like in a new library to have?
  - *Modern, high-tech, with lots of glass (Acalanes High School)*
  - *Integration of interior and exterior (Community Organizations)*
  - *Lots of light, open and airy (Service Clubs)*
- What materials, services, types of areas or technology might you use at a new Lafayette Library?
  - *Barnes & Noble approach to seating (Acalanes High School)*
  - *Separation of spaces for different age groups (Friends of the Lafayette Library)*
  - *More newspapers and magazines (Women's Organizations)*
- What do you think of having a multi-use space in a new library?
  - *Good idea, centrally located (Homeowners Associations)*
  - *Space for group meetings of 50-100 people would be frequently used (Service Clubs)*
  - *Meeting room space is very important (Youth / Educational Organizations)*
- What do you think the relationship between the schools and the public library should be?
  - *Should include all schools, i.e., kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (Community Organizations)*

- *A larger collection of materials for course-related research is needed (Acalanes High School)*
  - *Should develop relationship with high school to recruit student assistants and tutors (Preschools)*
- How might you / members of your group assist in bringing a new library building to Lafayette?
  - *Fundraising (Friends of the Lafayette Library)*
  - *Community input (Homeowners Associations)*
  - *Share information with others (Service Clubs)*
- Are there any other comments you would like to make about the Lafayette Library?
  - *Open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week (Community Organizations)*
  - *Move Friends' book sales to the Library (Homeowners Associations)*
  - *Would like to see this in my lifetime (Seniors)*

### Stakeholder Interviews

Between June and August 2000, the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Lafayette Community Foundation conducted 27 stakeholder interviews, again with assistance from Anne Marie Gold of Library Management Consultants and County Library staff. **Major findings of the stakeholder interviews are that the old library is too crowded, that there is a dearth of material, and that the hours are not convenient. Stakeholders called for internet access, better collections, and easily accessible meeting rooms in the new library.**

The stakeholders and the group(s) they represented, **with major representation in bold**, were:

Jean Ateljevich  
**Lafayette Planning Commission**

Johanna Carney  
**Acalanes Union High School District** student

Dean and Chris Coons  
Lafayette Improvement Association; **Lafayette Senior Services Commission**

Rick and Janet Cronk  
**Community** leaders

Tom DelBecarro  
**Community activist**; Lafayette School District parent

Bill Eames  
Lafayette Community Foundation; business leader;  
**Lafayette Rotary Club**

Roger Falcone  
**Lafayette School District** Governing Boardmember;  
Acalanes High School District parent

Steven Falk  
**Lafayette City** Manager; Lafayette Rotary Club; Lafayette School District parent

Carol Federighi  
**Lafayette City Council**

Betty Fielding  
**Lafayette Senior Services Commission**

Dr. Robert Fisher  
**Lafayette Community Foundation**

Ernie Gabbiatti  
**Community** leader

Teresa Gerringer  
**Lafayette School District** Boardmember; Lafayette Community Foundation; Lafayette School District parent

Brianne Kennedy  
**Acalanes Union High School District** student

Don Lively  
**Lafayette Taxpayers Association**

Johanna Knight  
**Community leader**

John Linneman  
**Business leader**

Will McCosker  
**Acalanes Union High School District student**

Cash Nickerson  
**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Board**

Ned Robinson  
**Lafayette Improvement Association**

Jennifer Russell  
**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department**

Don Tatzin  
**Lafayette City Council**

Susie Thum  
**Lafayette Arts & Sciences Foundation Board**

Jim Todhunter  
**Lafayette Homeowners Council**

Gayle Uilkema  
**Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors**

Bill and Bonnie Wakeman  
**Lafayette Historical Society**

Bob and Carly Wood  
**Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation**

Each interview consisted of 16 questions. Below is a list of these questions with a sample of common responses. Attachment 5 includes the complete set of responses.

- How often do you use the library?
  - *Frequently*
  - *Monthly*
- When you use the library, what materials or services do you usually use?
  - *Periodicals, newspapers*
  - *Children's materials*
  - *Reference books*
- If you don't use the library, why not?
  - *Too crowded*
  - *Lack of material*
  - *Not convenient hours*
- How else do you meet your information needs?
  - *Internet*
  - *Other libraries*
  - *Buy books*
- What do you think the purpose of a library should be within the Lafayette community? Do you think the current library is fulfilling that purpose?
  - *To serve people of all ages / Library is too crowded and hours are too limited to do this*
  - *Should be a community center / Not fulfilling the purpose*

- *Promote reading, especially for children / Library is too outdated*
- In general, what do you think the image of the library is in Lafayette? What do you think contributes to that image?
  - *Central location is helpful to elderly and children*
  - *To the aficionados, it's a terribly neglected member of the family*
  - *Positive – good staff and good, but very limited, resources*
- How would you describe library services in Lafayette to someone from out of town?
  - *Poor, small, inconvenient*
  - *Great children's programs*
  - *Not enough services or books available*
- For whom is the library a priority in Lafayette?
  - *Children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and seniors*
  - *Parents*
- How might a new library in Lafayette benefit you?
  - *Internet access*
  - *Better collections*
  - *Easily accessible meeting rooms*
- What would make you proud of a new library in Lafayette?
  - *Attractive, convenient, friendly and complete*
  - *Should contain a variety of information and formats*
  - *Central location and improved access*
- What new role or purpose could a new library building in Lafayette fulfill?
  - *Place for groups to study together*
  - *Community meeting room*
  - *Space for Lafayette Historical Society collection*
- What type of architectural image would you like a new library building to have?
  - *Signature building with a distinct look from other buildings*
  - *In scale with the community*
  - *Something that captures Lafayette history with hope for the future inside*
- What materials, services, types of areas or technology might you use at a new Lafayette Library?
  - *Internet access*

- *Meeting room*
  - *More materials in all areas*
- What do you think about having a multi-use space in a new library?
  - *Yes, so the library can serve as a community meeting place*
  - *More people will use the library*
- What do you think the relationship between the schools and the public library should be?
  - *Compatible, complementary and coordinated*
  - *Library should be known as a place to expand on the information acquired at school*
  - *Library should be close to schools so children can use the resources*
- How might you assist in bringing a new library building to Lafayette?
  - *Time and verbal support*
  - *Fundraising*
  - *Canvass for votes for a possible ballot measure*

### School Survey

In May 2003, a survey was prepared by Synergy Associates and distributed by library staff to the students, parents, teachers, school media specialists, librarians and administrators in Lafayette schools. In response, 175 complete surveys were returned. Attachment 6 includes a complete set of results, with major findings below:

- 84% of the responses named Homework Center, Computer Center, and Science Lab & Learning Center as the top three services for students.
- 78% said library services for students should include more reference materials, more computers, a collection of textbooks, and more video and audio tapes.
- 72% said the library should have quiet study areas, more comfortable seating, teen / young adult area, and more study seating.
- The top five other suggestions for the library were:
  - Extended hours
  - High-speed Internet
  - Lots more books
  - Study carrels
  - Cozy reading areas
- The respondents represented the following stakeholder groups:

**Table C**  
**Profile of School Survey Respondents**

	<i>Percentage of Respondents</i>
Parent of student	60%
Teacher	14
Middle school students	12
Elementary school students	7
High school students	3
Preschool parent	2
Others (administrator, library specialist, community member, relative of student)	2

*Source: Synergy Associates, 2003*

### **Task Forces and Committees**

Since Lafayette is a community of volunteers who are willing to participate in projects and programs to improve the community, the City Council uses task forces and committees extensively to solicit resident participation and develop recommendations regarding important issues. The Council selects task for participants that represent a fair geographical and organizational cross-section of the community and have the skills required to tackle the question put to them. The task force or committee is then charged with finding out the views of the residents, businesses, schools, organizations – whoever is considered a stakeholder. The task force or committee reports back to the Council and further steps are taken, typically in agreement with the report's findings and recommendations. Regarding the library, there have been three such task forces and committees since 1997 representing community involvement in the creation of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

#### **City Offices Task Force**

The City Council created the City Offices Task Force in February 1996 for the purpose of developing recommendations about creating a center of community facilities. The Task Force had 13 members representing a cross-section of the community. While this group was doing its community outreach through informally interviewing residents and public officials, the Lafayette School District assessed the Library for use as a school administration office. As noted above, the assessment concluded that it would be more cost-efficient to demolish and rebuild rather than rehabilitate the Library. Based on community input received by the Task Force and the building assessment, **the Task Force recommended to the City Council that it build a new Library and City Hall in the downtown.** It was because of the Task Force's recommendation that the Council hired BSA Architects to prepare the feasibility and site analysis described on page 11.

#### **Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force**

In December 1998, there was a joint meeting with the Council and Lafayette School District Governing Board. The main point of discussion was what to do about the deficiencies in the library in light of the dismal 1996 building assessment prepared for the District. The Council and Board jointly decided to form the Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force to assist the City and community in deciding whether to



maintain, renovate or rebuild the old library. The Task Force was comprised of 31 community representatives:

**Lafayette City Council**

Don Tatzin  
Anne Grodin

**Lafayette School District Governing Board**

Mary McCosker  
Shayne Silva

**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce**

Ann Denny  
Sereta Churchill

**Lafayette Homeowners Council**

Jim Todhunter

**Friends of the Lafayette Library**

Alice Barham  
Mary Ann Hoisington  
Lois Laine  
Connie Linneman

**Stanley Middle School Library**

Jean Bennetts

**Acalanes High School Library**

Kay Friday

**Lafayette Library**

Ann Partridge

**Contra Costa County Library**

Anne Cain  
Jerry Prideaux

**County Library Commission**

Maeve Pessis

**Technology**

John Eaton  
Dave Briccetti

**Lafayette Senior Services Commission**

Betty Fielding

**Lafayette Historical Society**

Mareschal Duncan

**Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation**

Tina Hogan

**Lafayette Taxpayers Association**

Don Lively  
Walt Lautenberger  
Bob Kahn

**State of California Librarian**

Anne Marie Gold

**Suburban Junior Women**

Gwenn Hardin Lennox  
Mary Jane Hoffmeister

**Public-at-Large**

Ruth Bailey  
Karen Maggio  
Jop Van Overeen

The questions and issues that the Vision 2000 Task Force set out to address were:

- Why the library is in its current situation?
- Overall community needs assessment
  - How often is the library used – how often could it be used
  - How could it be used in the future
  - By whom – who are the users and potential users
  - What are the needs of these user groups
  - What do we know now about the library – is it a dinosaur

- How to provide information to user groups
  - Methods – agreed upon needs
  - Models of service (e.g., books in stacks, Internet connections)
  - Non-traditional ideas of service and ways to study
  - Basic technology needs, staffing, hardware cable (wireless), parking, room size
  - Possibility of a regional library
- Technology
  - What is the role of the library in navigating technology
  - What's out there – goal of adapting to the future
  - Integration with the County in the field of technology and Library of California
  - Costs and funding for new technology
- Programs
  - Library of the future programs
  - Literacy
  - Students
  - State-of-the-Art technology in libraries
  - Historical reference repository
  - Costs and funding for programs
- Summary of agreed upon needs
  - Cost and funding
- Community partnerships
  - How to function together to meet the needs
- Possible funding sources
- Lafayette “Library of the Future”
  - Location
  - Acquisition of current building from the County – the process
  - Acquisition of more space

The Vision 2000 Task Force worked through the spring and summer of 1999 to review the earlier surveys and other data, how the community voted on Library- and school-related issues in local and countywide elections, and past studies and assessments. The group also held a one-day brainstorming session about space needs in a new library and visited nine libraries in Bay Area communities with populations similar to Lafayette's. The result of the Vision 2000 Task Force's work, issued in advance of a Town Hall meeting, regarding the library included the following:

- Vision 2000 Task Force's Brainstormed Space Need Priorities in a New Library
  - Meeting Room (top priority)
  - Terminals for students
  - Terminals for adults
  - Staff work areas
  - Books for students
  - Preschool area for story reading
  - Adults – reference area
  - Books for preschool and elementary students
  - Work areas for student groups
  - Area for historical displays
  - Adults – books
  - Work areas that are private for individual students
  - E-book repository for students
  - Reading areas for adults
  - Other materials, CDs, films, books on tape
  - E-book repository for adults
  
- Vision 2000 Task Force's Planning Notes for a New Library from Touring Existing Libraries
  - Hire a lighting engineer to work with the architect
  - Hire a sound engineer
  - Allow for generous storage areas
  - Create a workroom annex or technical area
  - Plan a meeting (multi-purpose) room
  - Arrange an attractive children's area
  - Arrange an attractive young adult / teen area
  - Have an uncompromised staff area
  - Plan a patio / foyer / patio area
  - Incorporate art into the library
  - Plan a separate space for Friends' book sales and storage
  - Set apart a space for the Historical Society

The City Council and Lafayette School District Governing Board jointly held a Town Hall meeting to discuss the library and the Vision 2000 Task Force's **key finding was that Lafayette was woefully underserved by its library** as demonstrated by the figures compiled in the report:

**Table D**  
**Comparative Library Information Compiled by Library Vision 2000 Task Force**

<b>Lafayette Library</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>Change</b>
Reference books	200	2,400	+1100%
Reference questions	8,478	73,957	+772%
Books, other resources	20,000	65,000	+225%
Service area population	7,800	24,200	+68%
Parking (# of spaces)	48 regular, 0 disabled	35 regular, 1 disabled	-27%, +100%
Circulation	164,000	248,093	+51%
Seating capacity	90	90	0%
Square footage	6,720	6,720	0%

Fifteen members of the public spoke, and the consensus was to move forward with a new library.

*I am one of Lafayette's seniors, and I was at the opening of the current library. Once I found a book that told about the house I grew up in. I love the library and it is a part of my life...It is important to have a good library...it is important to be in the center of town.*

*-- Gloria Duffy, City Council / School District Board Meeting, October 12, 1999*

*Kids are studying at Barnes & Noble because it is open and our library is not.*

*-- Maeve Pessis, City Council / School District Board Meeting, October 12, 1999*

The work of the Vision 2000 Task Force and the resulting *Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Report* marked a turning point in the community. It is when – in 1999 – that Lafayette realized it needed a new library and it developed a concrete vision of that goal.

## Library Building Committee

**T**he Library Building Committee (LBC) is perhaps the most important group to work on this community project. Broadly construed when first formed in 2000, the LBC was later expanded to include representatives from almost every civic group in Lafayette. The LBC, now with twenty members, serves as the primary conduit for community input and the primary catalyst for the new library. The role of the LBC is to spearhead the LL&LC project and to make recommendations on the needs assessment, design, building program, funding and project implementation. The current membership, **with major representation in bold**, is:

Don Tatzin\*  
Committee Chair; 18-year **City Councilmember**;  
Lafayette Community Foundation; Library Vision 2000  
Task Force

Anne Cain\*  
**County Librarian**; Library Vision 2000 Task Force

Judy Carney  
**Acalanes Union High School District  
Boardmember**

Ann Denny  
**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive  
Director**; Library Vision 2000 Task Force

Roger Falcone\*  
**Lafayette School District President**; UC Berkeley  
Department of Physics

Steven Falk\*  
**Lafayette City Manager**, LRDA Executive Director

Jon Frank\*  
**Lafayette School District Superintendent**

Judy Garvens  
**Friends of the Lafayette Library**; former Lafayette  
Mayor and City Councilmember

Anne Grodin\*  
**Lafayette Community Foundation**; former Lafayette  
Mayor and City Councilmember; Library Vision 2000  
Task Force

Mary Ann Hoisington  
**County Library Commissioner**; Friends of the  
Lafayette Library; Library Vision 2000 Task Force

Don Lively:  
**Lafayette Taxpayers Association**; Library Vision  
2000 Task Force

Karen Maggio  
**Lafayette Planning Commissioner**; Library Vision  
2000 Task Force; Mills College

Byrne Mathisen  
**Lafayette Homeowners Council**

Mary McCosker  
**Lafayette Historical Society**; former Lafayette  
School District Boardmember; Library Vision 2000  
Task Force

Art Miller  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Terry Murphy  
**Lafayette War Veterans, Inc.**

Laura O'Donoghue  
**County Deputy Librarian**; former Lafayette Branch  
Librarian

Maeve Pessis\*  
**Office of County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema Staff**;  
Friends of Lafayette Library; former County Library  
Commissioner; Library Vision 2000 Task Force

David Seaborg\*  
**Representative of the Glenn Seaborg Family**

Tim Ward  
**Lafayette Design Review Commissioner**

*\* Original Library Building Committee member*



### ***The Library Building Committee***

As discussed on page 11, the LBC played an important role in the selection of the site. The LBC also played the primary role in the community-based selection of the Project Architect through a design competition. Fifty firms with library experience in the western United States were considered. Requests for statements of qualifications were sent to eleven firms with relevant experience and which demonstrated the most creativity in libraries and other public buildings. All eleven firms are recipients of national architecture awards. Six statements of interest were received from these eleven firms and one unsolicited statement was received. The LBC reviewed each statement, and invited the best four firms to participate in the competition: Will Bruder Architects. Ltd.; Field Paoli Architecture; Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc.; and Killefer Flammang Architects. Each of these four firms was provided with background information to better prepare for the competition:

- Preliminary building program that was prepared by Library staff in December 2002
- *Memorandum of Understanding Among Contra Costa County, Lafayette Redevelopment Agency, City of Lafayette and Lafayette War Veterans, Inc. for the Central County Veterans Memorial Hall Project* to provide the background of the “business deal” to construct the Library
- Relevant sections of the Lafayette Zoning Ordinance
- *Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force Report*, October 1999
- Results of the surveys, interviews and focus groups held May through August 2000

In January 2003, each of the four firms submitted its conceptual ideas for the new library illustrated with three display boards and a study model. To inform the community about the competition, the City included an invitation in *Vistas*, placed a display ad in the local newspaper, placed A-frame signs around the city, and installed a banner on the Community Sign Board.

**HELP CHOOSE THE LIBRARY ARCHITECT**

**SATURDAY, FEB 1 – SUNDAY, FEB 2 9 AM – 3 PM**

**VETERANS BLDG. – 3491 MOUNT DIABLO BLVD.**

*Banner on Community Sign Board, January 2003*

***Invitation to the Public***

***To an exhibit of design concepts for the new Lafayette Library***

**These concepts have been prepared by four nationally known architectural firms as part of the City's competition to select a Library Project Architect.**

**The exhibit will be held on**

***Saturday, February 1 and Sunday, February 2  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm***

***Veterans Memorial Building  
3491 Mount Diablo Blvd at First Street***

***Please come and view the concepts and models, and offer your comments.***

*Display ad in Contra Costa Sun, January 2003*

Approximately fifty members of the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Lafayette Community Foundation previewed the four proposals on January 31. The proposals were then placed at the Veterans Memorial Building – the site of the new Library – for all-day public exhibits on February 1 and 2, 2003. Almost 900 people viewed the proposals over the two days, and submitted 357 completed public comment cards to the LBC. Comments about the Killefer Flammang design included:

*Draws you in from the street. Lovely garden and terrace. Good parking. -- Anonymous*

*Fits in without overwhelming the street. Not overly dark and artificial. -- Anonymous*

*Because it was so pretty. -- Eliza, age 4*

*I also like that they are considering ecological issues...mentioned staff needs. -- Lafayette resident*

*Architectural style in keeping with Lafayette. I like the way the space is broken up. I like the use of stone. -- Lafayette Planning Commissioner*

*The Golden Gate Way entrance invites in walkers. This is a subtle and very attractive design – fully functional. -- Lafayette resident*

*Has the most parking spaces. Efficient use of terrain. – Lafayette resident*

*Like welcoming entrance from the direction of schools. – Anonymous*

The LBC met on February 3 for more than eight hours to hear presentations by and interviews of the four firms. More than sixty members of the public also attended the presentations and interviews. The LBC considered the merits of each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Quality of conceptual design, including:
  - Beauty, elegance, functionality, efficiency and anticipated cost of design
  - Consistency of the design with the community's semi-rural character and the Bay Area context and the evolved mélange of downtown styles
  - Design's recognition of the site as the geographical and historical center of town
  - Innovative use of light, space, slopes, exposures, viewsheds, technologies and existing landscaping
- Quality of the architect's presentation and ability to communicate
- Architect's process for seeking community input, perceptions of the architect's willingness to listen and learn from the community
- Overall comfort level of the LBC with the architect and their ideas for the new library

The LBC also considered a summary of comments from the 357 cards submitted by the public and the results of reference checks completed by staff. At the end of the discussion, the LBC overwhelmingly selected Killefer Flammang Architects as the preferred Project Architect. Will Bruder Architects, Ltd. was the second place finalist and Field Paoli Architecture was third. The reasons stated repeatedly for the selection of Killefer Flammang included:

- They understand Lafayette the best
- The entrance on Golden Gate Way is masterful
- They make the best use of the site
- They understand the need for adequate parking
- They seem to be the most flexible in working with the community to develop a design that reflects what the community wants

**The City Council agreed with the recommendation of the Library Building Committee and, on February 10, 2003, selected Killefer Flammang Architects as the Project Architect for the LL&LC.**



The LBC also played a role in the development of the Seaborg Consortium and Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement. A subcommittee of the LBC was set up to work with the schools in developing cooperative programs. The subcommittee included:

- Roger Falcone, Lafayette School District Board President
- Jon Frank, Lafayette School District Superintendent
- Judy Carney, Acalanes Union High School District Boardmember
- John Nickerson, Acalanes High School President
- Laura O'Donoghue, Deputy County Librarian
- Dr. Robert Fisher, Lafayette Community Foundation
- Richard Whitmore, Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation Board President

The ideas generated by this subcommittee are compiled in Attachment 7. These ideas ultimately led to the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

### **Project Design Review**

Lafayette takes great pride in the physical appearance of the community. To ensure the residents and businesses have ample opportunity to participate in maintaining this appearance, the City has developed a design review process that is based on community participation and input. This process was used as another method for achieving consensus on what the community wanted its new Library to be. Once Killefer Flammang was selected, the design process began immediately.

The first step was a hands-on design workshop held on April 26, 2003 by Wade Killefer and Barbara Flammang. The City sent over 100 invitations and 50 e-mails to people who had signed-up at the competition exhibit. A display ad was published in the newspaper inviting participation. The workshop was held at the site of the LL&LC – in the existing Veterans Memorial Building – and approximately 50 people participated, including Lafayette Library staff members. Also in attendance as “helpers” were City staff and Kathy Page, the City’s building program consultant.

The workshop consisted of four parts. First, Wade Killefer went through the plans of each of the four firms that were in the competition, and asked the participants to talk about what they liked and did not like about each plan. The participants then broke up into four groups and were accompanied by the architects and staff on a walk around the site’s vicinity. The purpose was to look at the site from a variety of perspectives and to decide what elements defined the site and its location. The third step was to break the attendees into eight groups around tables with a site plan and “play pieces” that represented each space in the initial building program and to design a new library. Finally, each table was asked to present its plan to the entire group, and to talk about why they made the decisions that they did. From the attendees’ input and designs, Killefer Flammang began the conceptual design.

The public review process began in July 2003 with a preview of the first draft conceptual plans with the Committee and the Design Review Commission. A series of public meetings and events followed, including these milestones:

**Table E**  
**Design Review Process for Lafayette Library & Learning Center**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
July 14, 2003	Wade Killefer of Killefer Flammang architects presented draft conceptual plans at a joint public meeting with the City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Commission and Committee, and received comments from each member regarding design revisions.
September 9, 2003	The Committee and Design Review Commission held noticed public study sessions with Wade Killefer to review the second draft conceptual plans. <b>No one spoke in opposition.</b>
September 20-21, 2003	The third generation of the conceptual design was displayed in the City's booth and the Friends of the Lafayette Library's booth at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. Attendance at the two-day event was estimated at approximately 60,000; hundreds of these visitors viewed the design model and offered comments. An informational handout about the LL&LC was prepared by the City and handed out at the Festival (see Attachment 8). Representatives of the Friends and all the City Council members who hosted the booths said they <b>heard not one negative comment</b> about the conceptual design.
September 30, 2003	The Design Review Commission held a noticed public hearing and unanimously recommended approval of the design. <b>No one spoke in opposition at the hearing.</b>
October 9, 2003	The Planning Commission held a noticed public hearing on the land use actions, including the land use permit and height and setback variances, and design review. <b>No one spoke in opposition</b> at the hearing.
October 23, 2003	The Planning Commission unanimously approved the land use permit, variances and design review for the City. <b>Again, no one spoke in opposition.</b>
October 25, 2003	The conceptual plans and model were displayed at a downtown shopping center at the Friends of the Lafayette Library's Book Fair.
November 24, 2003	The Redevelopment Agency unanimously approved the final conceptual plans for the LL& LC. When one member of the Agency asked why only project supporters were at the meeting, Anne Grodin of the LBC and the Lafayette Community Foundation replied, "... <b>because everyone is satisfied.</b> "

## **COMMUNITY ANALYSIS**

### **Executive Summary**

**P**eople move to Lafayette for two primary reasons: the exceptional quality of the city's public schools and the beauty of the Lafayette's built and natural environment. These characteristics don't happen by chance; indeed, Lafayette's residents have been vigilant about maintaining, investing in, and improving their city and schools since the town's earliest days.

The city's high focus on education and urban planning bodes well for the LL&LC, because Lafayette's government agencies, schools, community organizations, and demographics are already oriented toward the creation of a high performing learning environment in a beautiful building. The community that will support the LL&LC includes:

- Two government agencies: City of Lafayette and Contra Costa County.
- Two public school districts: Lafayette School District and Acalanes Union High School District.
- The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation that provides programs to Lafayette's 4,741 public school students.
- Four private schools and fourteen preschools.
- At least thirteen community organizations including: Friends of the Lafayette Library; Lafayette Community Foundation; The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium; Generations in Jazz Foundation; and the Lafayette Historical Society.
- The residents – the backbone of the community.

## **Government Agencies**

**T**here are two government agencies that have guided and will continue to guide the development of the LL&LC: the City of Lafayette and Contra Costa County. Below are brief description of these agencies and their roles and relationships with the LL&LC. Key individuals are also identified.

### **City of Lafayette**

*Mission Statement: Lafayette was incorporated for the preservation and enhancement of the semi-rural character of the community. Lafayette shall endeavor to maintain the nature of the community by using a volunteer system of commissions and committees and a small staff whose number is consistent with the services provided. Limited services and a conservative fiscal policy are Lafayette's practice.*

The two primary features that comprise Lafayette's self-image and attract new residents are land use and schools. The City is responsible for land use, and, as reflected in the General Plan, the future development plan for the community is established. The Lafayette School District and Acalanes Union High School District are responsible for the schools. Libraries have historically been provided by the County. When the City established a Redevelopment Agency in 1996, it simultaneously agreed to take over the Lafayette Library by 2011. The City is now the lead agency for the LL&LC and partner in the Glenn Seaborg Leaning Consortium. The City facilitated the community-based site selection and acquisition process and the selection of the Project Architect and conceptual design process. It is a party to the Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement with the County and schools. It will build and own the LL&LC and pay for a substantial share of its operating expenses. Once the LL&LC is constructed and operational, the City will continue to play a major role in the Seaborg Consortium.

### **City Council / Lafayette Redevelopment Agency**

Since Lafayette's incorporation in 1968, five volunteer members have been elected at large to the City Council for four-year terms. The Mayor and Vice-Mayor are selected from the Council to serve one-year terms. Since 1996, the City Council has also served as Lafayette Redevelopment Agency (LRDA) for the implementation of the Lafayette Redevelopment Plan. The Council appoints members to the City's many commissions and committees, including the Library Building Committee (LBC), and one of its members serves as the Chair of the LBC. The current Council is:

- Erling Horn, Mayor
- Carl Anduri, Vice-Mayor
- Carol Federighi
- Ivor Samson
- Don Tatzin

Like previous City Councils, the current Council is overwhelmingly supportive of a new library and has approved every action before them regarding the LL&LC. In 2001-2002, the Council/LRDA approved the Veterans Memorial Building property as the final site and the

Memorandum of Understanding between the City, LRDA, Contra Costa County, and Veterans organizations to secure the site. In 2003 alone, the Council/LRDA accomplished the following for the LL&LC:

- Facilitated the three-day public design competition for the Project Architect
- Unanimously selected Killefer Flammang as the Project Architect
- Unanimously approved \$1.6 million in the 2003/2004 LRDA budget for site acquisition and design work
- Unanimously approved the acquisition of additional adjacent property
- Hosted the City's booth to display the project at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival
- Held seven public meetings about the LL&LC, where it was the clear community consensus to approve the project
- Unanimously approved the building program
- Unanimously adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project
- Unanimously approved the conceptual design
- Agreed to form and provide financial support for the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium.

In addition to the current Council, three former Councilmembers are very active in the LL&LC through the LBC and other groups: Dr. Robert Fisher, Anne Grodin, and Judy Garvens.

Finally, Gayle Uilkema, who was an advocate for the library when she served on the Lafayette City Council, now serves on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, and is still an advocate for Lafayette's and the County's library needs.

#### Planning Commission

The seven-member Commission is appointed by the City Council to serve four-year terms. Its role is to recommend and implement land use policy. The Commission has been active in the LL&LC since 1997. One of its members serves as liaison to and member of the LBC, and the Commission held three public meetings in 2003 regarding the project. The result was the Commission's unanimous approval in October 2003 of the land use permit, setback and height variances, and design review of the LL&LC. The Commission will stay active in project through the review of detailed design plans. The current Commissioners are:

- Michael Anderson, Chair
- Rick Humann, Vice-Chair
- Jeanne Ateljevich

- Karen Maggio
- Dick Holt
- Mark Mitchell
- Will Lovitt

#### Design Review Commission

The Design Review Commission has five members appointed by the City Council for four-year terms. Its role is to advise on matters relating to aesthetics and the physical appearance of the community. The Commission has been and will continue to be active in the LL&LC. One of its members serves as liaison to and member of the LBC, and the Commission held two public study sessions with the Project Architect and three public meetings in 2003 regarding the conceptual design. In September 2003, the Commission unanimously recommended approval of the design. The Commission will stay involved in the project as the detailed design plans and construction plans are developed. The current Commission has four architects and one landscape architect:

- Ken Hertel, Chair
- Julie Turjoman, Vice-Chair
- Larry Blodgett,
- Tim Ward
- Tom Lee

#### Senior Services Commission

The Senior Services Commission has seven members appointed by the City Council to advise the Council and the community on issues pertinent to older adults. Members of the Commission have participated in the community input process for the new library through focus groups and interviews. The Commission will continue to be a valuable resource in planning programs at the LL&LC.

#### Youth Commission

The Youth Commission has eleven members representing 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Council and community on issues pertinent to teens and schools. Members of the Commission have participated in community input process for the new library through focus groups and interviews. The Commission will continue to be a valuable resource in planning programs at the LL&LC.

#### Library Building Committee

The LBC is described on page 27.

#### City Staff

City staff provides support to the City Council, LRDA, Planning, Design Review, Senior Services and Youth Commissions and LBC. For the LL&LC project, City staff worked closely

with County Library staff, the City's Library Development Team and the community to develop the needs assessment, building program, conceptual design, technology plan, library plan of service and the cooperative agreement. Under the terms of the Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement, the City will provide funding for an increased level of library services, including additional staffing beyond what is currently provided, to meet the service goals of the programs. The City will provide funding for weekly arts and science programs and will coordinate and provide access to the programming resources of the Consortium. The primary staff for the LL&LC is City Manager Steven Falk and Community Development Director Ann Merideth. In future phases of project implementation, Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson will provide financial services and City Engineer Tony Coe will provide construction management services.

#### City Library Development Team

A team of professionals with extensive experience in libraries was formed by the City to work with staff, Council/LRDA, Commissions, Library Building Committee, County Library staff, and, most importantly, the community. The team members are:

- Wade Killefer, Killefer Flammang Architects – Project Architect
- Kathy Page, Kathryn Page Associates – Building Program Consultant
- Tom Hedges, Critical Solutions, Inc. – Project Advisor
- Mary Wray, Synergy Associates – Needs Surveys and Research Consultant

### **Contra Costa County**

#### Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors has five members representing five districts within the county. The office is non-partisan and has a four-year term. The Board governs the County Library. The Board is supportive of the LL&LC, and it approved the *Memorandum of Understanding Among Contra Costa County, Lafayette Redevelopment Agency, City of Lafayette, City of Walnut Creek and Lafayette War Veterans, Inc. for the Central County Veterans Memorial Hall Project* (MOU) to allow the LL&LC to be built on the Veterans Memorial Building property. The Board also approved the *Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement Between the Contra Costa County Library, the City of Lafayette, the Lafayette School District, and the Acalanes Union High School District for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center*. The Board is represented on the City's LBC by Maeve Pessis, staff to Supervisor Gayle Uilkema. The current Board of Supervisors is comprised of:

- John Giola, District 1
- Gayle Uilkema, District 2 (including Lafayette)
- Millie Greenberg, District 3
- Mark DeSaulnier, District 4
- Federal Glover, District 5

#### Library Commission

The Library Commission is composed of 28 members, 18 of whom are appointed by and represent cities and towns in the county. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and County Librarian on the goals, operations, services to meet needs, and the adequacy of funding. Lafayette is represented by Mary Ann Hoisington, who also represents the Library Commission to the City's LBC and is a long-time member of the Friends of the Lafayette Library. The alternate Commissioner for Lafayette is Alice Barham.

### Administration

The County Administrative Officer is John Sweeten, who administers all County functions, including the Library. He and the Deputy County Administrative Officer Scott Tandy were instrumental in developing with City staff the MOU to acquire the Veterans property.

### County Library

#### *Mission: Bringing People and Ideas Together*

The Contra Costa County Library operates 23 branches throughout the county, including Lafayette. Consistent with the Library's mission, it provides collections, resources, and services to meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the county's diverse community. Library staff has worked closely with City staff, the City's Library Development Team and the community to develop the needs assessment, building program, conceptual design, technology plan, library plan of service and the cooperative agreement. Under the terms of the Joint Venture Operating Agreement, County Library staff will operate the LL&LC and provide staff training, professional development, ongoing collection development, long-range planning, and implementation of the Library Plan of Service. Library staff will operate and supervise the Homework Center, Arts and Science Discovery Center, Community Meeting Room, and the Technology Lab. Library staff will include a Programs Coordinator and a Homework Center Coordinator to direct the activities of the joint venture library services. The primary staff are: County Librarian Anne Cain; Deputy County Librarian Laura O'Donoghue (former Lafayette Branch Librarian); and Interim Lafayette Branch Librarian Valerie Bakshi.



## **Public and Private Schools**

Lafayette has six public schools in two districts: Lafayette School District and Acalanes Union High School District. All of Lafayette's six public schools earned perfect "10"s on their 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 API scores. The community also has four private schools, six school-age daycare facilities and 14 preschools. Below are brief description of the public and private schools, their libraries and library needs.

### **Lafayette School District**

*Our beliefs:*

- *Excellent academic programs*
- *Technological advancement*
- *Student involvement*
- *Each student can succeed*
- *Safe and secure schools*
- *Multi-cultural awareness*
- *Parent and community involvement*

The Lafayette School District serves K-8 grades with 3,425 students in four elementary schools and one middle school. The elementary schools (K-5) are Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill. The middle school (6-8) is M.H. Stanley. All five schools are ranked high academically. For example:

- On the Stanford Achievement Test 2001 results, all the schools ranked at the national level over the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading, mathematics and language arts and over the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile in spelling.
- On the State's Academic Performance Index, the five schools average a score of 884 with 800 being a mark of quality.
- And, each year the State identifies and honors some of the most exemplary and inspiring public schools through the Distinguished School Awards in the California School Recognition Program -- Lafayette District schools have won four times: Happy Valley Elementary in 1998 and Stanley Middle School in 1990, 1992 and 1999.

The District has a Library Plan including the following Vision:

*Research clearly shows that well-funded, well-staffed school library media programs result in significantly higher student achievement and that academic performance is highly*

*correlated to the quality of the school library program\*. The primary goals of the Lafayette School District Library Program are to inspire the love of reading, encourage the appreciation of good literature, teach research skills, develop information literacy, and support the classroom curriculum. Patrons are taught strategies which enable them to locate and evaluate appropriate sources of information. Through the facilities, materials, and technologies provided in the program, students and staff become effective users and creators of ideas and information. Accessible libraries are designed and maintained to promote literacy and provide exploration opportunities for students, staff, and parents of various learning modalities.*

\* Lance, K.C., Welborn, L., and Hamilton-Pennell, C. *The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement*, 1993.

Each of the five District schools has a library. The elementary school libraries are open during school hours, including recesses and lunch. Stanley Middle School library is open during school hours, as well as before school, during morning breaks and lunch, and after school until 4:00 pm. Each class visits its school library once a week for instruction in library skills, an introduction to recreation reading, access to a variety of reference materials and media, and support for the classroom curriculum. Each of the five libraries has on-line access to the County Library's catalogue as well as other Internet resources.

The District is governed by a five-member board elected at large for four-year terms. The current Board is:

- Teresa Gerringer, President
- Ann Appert, Clerk
- Roger Falcone
- Shayne Silva
- David Stromberg

District and school staff support the Board and administer the school programs:

- Jon Frank, Superintendent
- Maggie MacIsaac, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- Ben Shaw, Principal, Burton Valley Elementary
- Linda Bochte, Library Specialist, Burton Valley Elementary
- Wendy Patterson, Principal, Happy Valley Elementary
- Helen Dowty, Library Specialist, Happy Valley Elementary
- Jan Askin, Principal, Lafayette Elementary
- Janette Maher, Library Specialist, Lafayette Elementary
- Bruce Wodhams, Principal, Springhill Elementary
- Sherry Mattern, Library Specialist, Springhill Elementary
- Fred Brill, Principal, Stanley Middle
- Barbara Stevens, Library Media Teacher, Stanley Middle

District Boardmembers and staff have been exceptionally active in partnering with the Library and City to provide first-rate Library services. Boardmembers Shayne Silva and Mary McCosker and Stanley Middle School Library Specialist Jean Bennetts (now retired) served on

the Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force. Board President Roger Falcone and Superintendent Jon Frank serve on the City's LBC, and have been instrumental in the development of the Seaborg Consortium.

The District's service needs were assessed through joint public meetings with the City, service on committees and task forces, participating in the development of studies and reports, and through focus groups, interviews and surveys. These needs at the LL&LC include:

- Support for school curricula through text book collections and other resources
- Enhanced arts and science programs
- After-school programs
- Space to hold voluntary intervention programs outside the school environment
- Lafayette history program
- Tutoring
- Larger children's and teen collections
- Larger reference materials
- More video and audio tapes

### **Acalanes Union High School District**

*District Vision: The Acalanes Union High School District will foster the intellectual, social and physical development of all its students through the active participation of supportive communities and strong ties to higher education. The District will be characterized by a rigorous curriculum, responsive support systems, and a rigorous commitment to continuous improvement.*

The Acalanes Union High School District operates four comprehensive high schools that serve the 9-12 grades in the communities of Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga and a portion of Walnut Creek. The total District student population for 2002/2003 was 5,744. Acalanes High School serves most of the Lafayette community with a 2003/2004 student population of 1,316. Students at Acalanes High School are high achievers. Consider:

- On the Stanford 9 2002 results, 75-77% of the students ranked over the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading and 81-83% ranked over the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in mathematics. In comparison, the State's results in 2002 were 34-37% in reading and 47- 52% in mathematics.
- On the State's Academic Performance Index for 2002, the school had a score of 831 with 800 being a mark of quality.

- Each year the State identifies and honors some of the most exemplary and inspiring public schools through the Distinguished School Awards in the California School Recognition Program. Acalanes High School was honored in 1988, 1990 and 1996.
- It was nominated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School in 1993.
- Seventy percent of its graduates enroll in four-year colleges.
- Twenty percent of its graduates enroll in two-year colleges.
- The school offers advanced placement courses in English, French, Spanish, German, Calculus, Biology, US History, and European History.

Acalanes High School's Library was rebuilt in 2002/2003. It offers students on-line access, both at school and at home, to a variety of resources. The catalogs of all four high school libraries within the District are on-line through the Athena Web Catalog. There are also direct links to the County Library, Berkeley Library and San Francisco Library as well as homework centers at high schools in and outside California. There is also the Blackboard Learning System where teachers post assignments and course calendars on the Internet through the school library.

The District is governed by a five-member board elected at large for four-year terms and one Student Member who serves a one-year term. The current Board is:

- Kathy Coppersmith, President
- Margot Tobias, Clerk
- Judy Carney
- Vanessa Crews
- Richard Whitmore
- Chelsea Fahr, Student

The Superintendent and staff support the Board and administer the school programs.

- Randall Olson, Superintendent
- John Nickerson, Principal, Acalanes High School
- Cynthia Baird, School Librarian, Acalanes High School

The Board and staff have been active in developing a new Library since at least 1999. Boardmember Judy Carney serves on the City's Library Building Committee. Richard Whitmore was active in developing the Consortium both as a District Boardmember and as President of the Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation. Acalanes High School Principal John Nickerson held meetings with faculty, students and parents to find out what they wanted in the library as part of the LBC subcommittee in developing the Consortium. Kay Friday, the former School Librarian, served on the Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force.

The District's service needs were assessed through joint public meetings with the City, service on committees and task forces, participating in the development of studies and reports, and through focus groups, interviews and surveys. These needs at the LL&LC include:

- Additional hours
- Small group study areas
- Peer tutoring
- Enhanced learning programs
- Wireless technology
- Materials to support curricula

### **Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation**

*Mission: To support and enrich the education of every child in the Lafayette public schools through a broad community-based effort.*

Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation's (LASF) has been the community's sole education foundation since it was founded in 1980 as a response to Proposition 13 budget cuts. Its mission is implemented primarily through developing, staffing and delivering high-quality, curriculum-based programs in the classroom and through equipment and materials purchases. The beneficiaries of these programs are the 4,687 students of Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette and Springhill Elementary Schools, Stanley Middle School and Acalanes High School. LASF partners closely with the Lafayette School District and Acalanes High School to ensure that the programs are aligned with State standards and District benchmarks to maximize each student's academic potential. Lafayette public schools today remain among the highest-ranked in California due in part to LASF's continuing support.

LASF raised over \$700,000 last year for a variety of programs. Examples of such programs at the four elementary schools included:

- Additional art classes
- Child's Historical Perspective of Lafayette for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students (in conjunction with the Lafayette Historical Society and Lafayette Library)
- California Poets in the Schools program for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students
- California Symphony in the Schools program
- Annual science and art fairs

At Stanley Middle School, LASF works in partnership with teachers and administrators to design programs that closely integrate with the curricula. Examples of programs are:

- Book binding for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Printmaking on antique printing presses for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Youth Educator Program where high school students serve as peer counselors for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Annual science fair
- Writing for Mastery Program that is linked to the same program at Acalanes High School

At Acalanes High School, there is the LASF committee which is composed of parent volunteers who work with individual teachers on specific programs. Examples of programs are:

- Artist in Residence program
- English seminars for juniors and seniors on such topics as Ethnic Literature and Non-Fiction Nature Literature
- The Riparian Classroom to study the local creeks system
- Peer tutoring

LASF has been actively involved in the creation of the LL&LC and Seaborg Consortium, and it is one of the Consortium sponsors through LASF President Richard Whitmore and Lafayette School District Boardmember Ann Appert.

LASF's library needs include:

- Space for arts and sciences enrichment programs
- Permanent location for bookbinding program
- Permanent location for printmaking program
- Community meeting space
- Access to other Consortium partners

### **Parents Clubs and PTAs**

Each of the six public schools in Lafayette has a very active Parents Club or Parent-Teachers Association. The purpose of these organizations is to act as a bridge between the schools'

administrators and teachers and the families and to support the schools with volunteer efforts to replace and supplement resources. The groups also play an important role in dispensing information from the community that is important to families. For example, the Parents Clubs/PTAs at the elementary schools regularly include information from the Friends of Lafayette Library in their Friday mailings. The Acalanes High School Parents Club has a biweekly on-line newsletter that provides school and relevant community information and announcements. The library needs for the Parents Club would be the same as for the schools with special emphasis on a community meeting space.

### **Private Schools (K– 12) and School-Age Daycare**

Lafayette has four private schools:

- The Bentley Upper School (9-12) – 197 students
- Contra Costa Jewish Day School (K-5) – unavailable
- The Meher School (K-5) – 210 students
- St. Perpetua (K-8) – 259 students

According to information gathered during the community assessment process through the focus groups and schools survey, the library service needs of these private schools mirror those of public schools. These private schools have libraries that are open during school hours and primarily staffed by paraprofessionals and parent volunteers. The libraries are insufficient to meet all the needs of their students because of their small size. Private school students are active users of the existing library. They will continue to use the LL&LC as an educational resource.

There are six school-age day care facilities. These facilities offer programs after school and during school holidays and breaks, including taking field trips to the library.

- Center of Arts, Technology and Science (located at Lafayette Elementary School)
- The Child Day School
- Happy Days Learning Center
- Husky House, Inc. (located at Happy Valley Elementary School)
- Merriewood Children's Center (located at Burton Valley Elementary School)
- Springhill Kids Hideout (located at Springhill Elementary School)

Their needs during the school year are the same as for the public schools. During school breaks and throughout the summer, these facilities would benefit from learning enhancement programs.

### **Home-Schooled Students**

In 2002, the Lafayette School District received three private school affidavits for schools having fewer than five students (presumed to be home schools). This year, the Lafayette School District has not received any private school affidavits.



## **Preschools and Child Daycare Providers**

There are two large family daycare facilities and 12 preschools. The preschools have a total capacity of over 800 children and most of the facilities are at capacity with waiting lists:

- Burton Valley Cooperative Preschool
- The Child Day School
- Diablo Valley Montessori School
- Gan Ilan Preschool at Temple Isaiah
- Happy Days Learning Center
- Joyful Beginnings Preschool
- Kids Into Speaking Spanish
- Lafayette Nursery School
- Merriewood Children's Center
- Old Firehouse School
- Seedlings Preschool
- White Pony at Meher School

These facilities need support from the library for collections and services for young children. They also bring groups of children to the library to check out materials and to attend story times.

## **Adult Daycare**

There are two adult day care facilities with a combined capacity of 130 developmentally disabled clients in Lafayette: Futures Explored, Inc. and the Las Trampas Adult Vocational Program. The clients from Futures Explored and Las Trampas are highly visible and successfully integrated into the Lafayette community. The City employs teams of developmentally disabled clients to sweep streets and sidewalks in the downtown. In addition, the LRDA, in its first major housing project, reserved 20% of the units for people with disabilities and very low incomes. Many Futures Explored and Las Trampas clients live in these units.

## **Colleges and Universities**

Lafayette is fortunate to be in close proximity to several colleges and universities. Lafayette residents use these institutions' libraries and other educational programs to supplement information or programs not available in the community. Lafayette is also the home of many faculty and staff members of these institutions:

- Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill
- John F. Kennedy University, Pleasant Hill\*
- Mills College, Oakland
- Saint Mary's College, Moraga\*
- University of California, Berkeley\*

*\* Seaborg Consortium partners*

## **Community Organizations**

### **Friends of the Lafayette Library**

The Friends of the Lafayette Library have supported the Lafayette Library for forty three years. Having collected proceeds from the sale of used books, the Friends recently donated \$750,000 toward the construction of a new Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

The Friends of the Lafayette Library (Friends) began in 1939 as the Lafayette Library Association with representatives of several community organizations and interests. Since 1939, it has remained an all-volunteer organization. It is the mission of the Friends to provide funds for the Lafayette Library over and above what can be provided by the City, County and State. Today there are 945 members, and their main fundraising activity is the twice-monthly book sales held at the City of Lafayette Community Center. The book sales began in 1967 at roving sites around the community. In 1985, the Friends settled at the Center, and in 1991 they reached an agreement with the City to pay \$4,500 in rent to the Community Center. For twelve years the City of Lafayette has offset that rent with an annual \$4,500 donation. Book donations are taken at both the Library and the Center, necessitating the transport of materials between the facilities. Half of the funds raised through book sales go to existing library needs:

- Underwriting additions to the library's collection, including children's books, classics, books on tape, magazines, CDs, etc.
- Supporting expanded Internet access and training programs
- Presenting programs for the community, from special events for children and teens to writers' workshops to musical performances

*The Friends of the Lafayette Library holds a book sale on the first and third Saturday of each month- an event you shouldn't miss. The sale is staffed by volunteers, and every penny generated by the sale goes to the Lafayette Library. -- Announcement in Friends newsletter*

The other half of the funds raised go to the new library. Since 1985, when this funding goal began, the Friends have raised over \$700,000, including conducting a "dollars for hours" fundraising campaign to provide additional hours at the Library. Annual book sales are continuing to increase; in 2002, the sales totaled \$48,000. The Friends have been stalwart and active participants in the creation of the LL&LC by serving on committees, such as the Lafayette Library Vision 2000 Task Force and the City's LBC, managing focus groups, interviews and surveys, and getting the word out to the community.

*Whether filling a shopper's longtime search or introducing a child to the joy of reading, there are few things as gratifying as making books available to everyone. We are fortunate indeed to live in a community where literature and the library and its staff are highly valued. Come join us in support of our current library and long-dreamed-of-new-one. Together, we'll make the dream of a new library a reality. -- Ruth Bailey, Friends President, in October 2003 newsletter*

The Friends prepared a memorandum in November 2002 outlining the organization's needs for its used book sale operation to provide at least \$45,000 annually to support the LL&LC. The memorandum is Attachment 9; below is a summary of these needs to handle the 1,000-1,500 books donated each week:

- Retail space downtown, in the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center.
- Donation area that is accessible for vehicle unloading and protected from the weather.
- Pricing and sorting area of 240 square feet.
- Book sales room of 1,200 square feet.
- Check out and information area.
- 1,600 linear feet of fixed book shelves that are no more than six feet high to handle the on-going stock of ±25,000 books.
- Separate entrance from the LL&LC.
- ADA-compliant.
- Windows providing natural light.

Last year, the Friends of the Library donated 7500 hours to the library, over \$1700 to programs and special events, and over \$25,000 for furniture and equipment to the library.

### **The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium**

The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium will bring, at low cost, the benefits of the Bay Area's best and most distinguished urban cultural institutions into the suburban library.

*There is beauty in discovery. There is mathematics in music, a kinship of science and poetry in the description of nature, and exquisite form in a molecule. Attempts to place different disciplines in different camps are revealed as artificial in the face of the unity of knowledge. All literate. . . are sustained by the philosopher, the historian, the political analyst, the economist, the scientist, the poet, the artisan, and the musician. — Dr. Glenn*

*Seaborg, upon being appointed Chancellor of the University of California, 1958*

An outgrowth of the joint venture and cooperative programs with the library, schools and City, the LL&LC will be the home of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium wherein twelve Bay Area cultural organizations will join the Lafayette School District and the Acalanes Union High School District in providing programs, workshops, archives, exhibits, and curricula at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

Through the Seaborg Consortium, these institutions will provide learning materials, workshops, archives, exhibits, K-12 curricula, lectures, films and discovery centers to the community, its schools and its children.

The charter members of the Seaborg Consortium are:

- **California Shakespeare Theater** – *Nourishing the imaginations of audiences, artists, and learners of all ages through the plays of William Shakespeare.*
- **Chabot Space & Science Center** – *An innovative teaching and learning center focusing on astronomy and the space sciences and the interrelationships of all sciences.*
- **Commonwealth Club of California** – *The nation's oldest and largest public affairs forum.*
- **Greenbelt Alliance** – *Protecting open space and promoting livable communities in partnership with diverse coalitions on public policy development, advocacy and education.*
- **John F. Kennedy University** – *A rich learning environment where students and faculty collaborate in a spirit of inquiry, dialogue and service.*
- **John Muir / Mount Diablo Health System** – *A premier healthcare provider in the San Francisco Bay Area.*
- **Lindsay Wildlife Museum** – *Connecting people and wildlife to inspire responsibility and respect for the world we share.*
- **University of California Lawrence Hall of Science** – *Developing model programs for teaching and learning science and mathematics, and disseminating them to an ever-increasing audience.*
- **Oakland Museum of California** – *The only museum devoted to the art, history, and natural sciences of California.*
- **The Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park** – *The East Bay's zoo.*
- **Saint Mary's College** – *Celebrating the classical tradition of liberal arts education.*
- **University of California Institute of Governmental Studies** – *Advancing interdisciplinary research in American politics, government, and public policy.*

Seaborg Consortium sponsors are:

- Lafayette Community Foundation

- City of Lafayette
- Lafayette School District
- Acalanes Union High School District
- Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation
- Contra Costa County Library
- Friends of the Lafayette Library
- Lafayette Historical Society

The late Dr. Seaborg was one of the most remarkable scientists and humanists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and as advisor to ten US Presidents, an influential voice on national and international policies. A Nobel Prize-winner, his discoveries (he co-discovered plutonium and nine other atomic elements) shaped modern history. Dr. Seaborg was also a 45-year resident of Lafayette, and the community is committed to honoring his legacy in the LL&LC.

The Lafayette City Council enthusiastically embraces the Seaborg Consortium, and has committed to provide funding for its organization. The staff report describing the creation of the Seaborg Consortium, and including letters of commitment from the twelve cultural organizations can be found in Attachment 10.

Programs brought to Lafayette by Seaborg Consortium partners will build on the success of the Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation's rich and innovative programming to schools. Partners will deliver activities and experiences that inspire intellectual curiosity and exploration, not just to public school children, but to all of Lafayette's generations. To meet the partners' needs, the LL&LC needs an spaces that accommodate a wide variety of programs, and that provide print and electronic resources to support program content.

State support for the Seaborg Consortium is particularly important because, if successful, it could be a model for low-cost cultural programming at other suburban libraries in California.

*Whatever the expense of improving education, it is an investment in the future we must make. Excellence costs. But in the long run mediocrity costs more. – Dr. Glenn Seaborg*

## **Lafayette Community Foundation**

The Lafayette Community Foundation was founded, primarily, to raise funds to build a new Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

*Lafayette residents share a remarkable passion for their community. While priding themselves on maintaining a semi-rural atmosphere in the decidedly urban bay Area, they also demand and support high quality civic, cultural and educational opportunities*

*here in town that are not funded by the City. That's where the Lafayette Community Foundation steps in. ...the Foundation is vital part of the Lafayette community. Established in 1999, the purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial support for local projects and organizations dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Lafayette. -- Vistas, Fall 2002*

The Foundation invests in programs and projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of the community. Some of the programs and projects supported by the Foundation include:

- Contact Care Hotline that helps the elderly and disabled stay at home
- Murals at Stanley Middle School
- Environmental science program at Acalanes High School
- Piano for use by the Generations in Jazz programs and other groups

The main project for the Foundation is the LL&LC and the Seaborg Consortium. Members of the Foundation serve on the City's LBC and have been active in the development of the building program and conceptual design plans. Foundation members served on the LBC subcommittee with the school districts and the City to develop the cooperative agreement and that ultimately led to the Seaborg Consortium. The Foundation has also created the Lafayette Library Steering Committee (I thought this was the Funding Steering Committee rather than a general steering committee which suggest a role that the State may not like) with representatives of the City Council and staff, Lafayette School District Governing Board, Friends of the Lafayette Library and other active members of the community to coordinate fundraising and publicity and to keep the community energized about the LL&LC and Seaborg Consortium.

The Foundation has begun its fundraising campaign and to date has collected and received pledges for \$3.5 million towards the building of the LL&LC and an ongoing endowment to maintain the high level of services.

The Foundation can make use of meeting rooms at the new LL&LC, where it will devise ways to support local programs that enrich Lafayette.

### **Lafayette Historical Society**

*We believe in the power of history to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought and provide enjoyment. Through our collections and programs we strive to link Lafayette's history to the lives of people.*

The Lafayette Historical Society (LHS) was founded in 1967 by a local librarian to collect and preserve Lafayette's history. The LHS now has 175 members, and it continues to work cooperatively with the library and schools to preserve the community's heritage. The LHS

collection is currently stored in several locations around the City, including members' garages. Some items in the collection include:

- Newspaper clippings and copies of newsletters and other local publications
- Photographs dating back to the 1800s
- Restored City of Lafayette Model-T Fire Engine
- Elam Brown's branding iron and lantern (first Yankee settler of Lafayette)
- Peter Thomson's blacksmith anvil
- Jennie Bickerstaff's school bell (first school teacher)

LHS members provide and present a Child's Historical Perspective of Lafayette curriculum in partnership with the Lafayette School District, LASF, and the County Library. In 2003, more than 380 3<sup>rd</sup>-graders at the four elementary schools received three one-hour lessons over a three-week period. Lessons include: local Native American history; Lafayette's pioneers; mapping historic sites; pioneer crafts; and sharing pioneer artifacts. Walking tours of downtown Lafayette and the Lafayette cemetery take place upon the completion of the classroom lessons. The downtown tour begins at the library and includes Lafayette Plaza and its attendant 100+ year old buildings and Pony Express site. It ends back at the library after the ringing Jennie Bickerstaff's bell, at the site of Lafayette's first schoolhouse.

The Lafayette Historical Society is a Consortium sponsor, and one of its members is on the City's Library Building Committee. Regarding its needs in the new LL&LC, the Historical Society has requested 800 square feet in the LL&LC to store and conserve its collection, space to display the Fire Engine, and display space for its artifacts on a rotating basis.

### **Lafayette Chamber of Commerce**

Far from just a business advocacy organization, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has a fifty-six year history of community involvement and support. The Chamber splits virtually all of the profits it earns from its major community events, including the Art and Wine Festival and Reservoir Run, with local schools and arts organizations. The LL&LC is also a recipient of Chamber donations.

*Mission: To promote and maintain a healthy business climate and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Lafayette.*

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) began in 1947, and it currently has a membership of 530 businesses, professionals and residents in Lafayette and neighboring areas. It is a major force in creating and maintaining downtown Lafayette's vitality, working to promote businesses in town and encouraging new enterprises. Chamber members work in



collaborative fashion with schools, residents, churches and synagogues, community organizations and the local government for the betterment of the community.

An example of this community spirit is the SmallTown DownTown Community Workshop held in 1997 by the City of Lafayette and Chamber. Over 100 Lafayette business owners and residents attended. At the end of the all-day Workshop, the attendees agreed on a list 24 actions items to enhance downtown Lafayette. Providing for a new or refurbished library was one of the agreed-upon outcomes.

The Chamber, through its Special Events Committee, is the premier organizer of the City's major public events including the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and the Lafayette Reservoir Run. Proceeds from Chamber events are shared with organizations in the community, most recently the LL&LC. The 2004 Festival will benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation and Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation, two sponsors of the LL&LC and Seaborg Consortium. The Chamber Executive Director serves on the City's LBC. Further, the Chamber provides ongoing publicity for the library in the Business and Community Directory, and it displays and distributes the Friends of the Lafayette Library newsletter.

The Chamber will make use of the community room at the LL&LC to support community events and business training.

### **Suburban Junior Women**

A committee of members from the Suburban Junior Women's club recently conducted a tour of other Bay Area libraries to develop recommendations for the new LL&LC, and the Club has made the LL&LC one of their top fundraising priorities.

The Suburban Junior Women (Juniors) is a nonprofit community service organization that is part of the International Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest women's organization in the world. The Lafayette Juniors have 55 members and promote civic work, education, and social interaction. They have assisted a number of local groups by providing volunteer time and donations, including the library, Lafayette Community Park, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, and Rape Crisis Center.

In 1999, the Juniors selected the library as their major philanthropic project, and raised \$22,000 for library materials by participating in the Human Race, a 3-mile walk/run around Lafayette Reservoir. In 2000, the Library was again selected as a philanthropic project, and funds were donated to purchase books-on-tape and children's resource materials. The Juniors hold the annual Lafayette Kitchen Tour, and the 2003 Tour's proceeds went towards the new Library. They also organized a subcommittee to work with the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Friends of the Lafayette Library to help determine the requirements for the LL&LC. Because most of the members are mothers of preschool- and early elementary-age children, the Juniors list of recommendations focused on the Children's Area. This list is in Attachment 11. Below is a summary of the recommendations:

- Substantial sound barrier between areas

- Ample seating for children
- Homework center
- Preschool play area
- Story area away from books
- Separate reference desk
- Family restroom (members specifically noted special “issues” that single parents of multiple children face during restroom breaks)

### **Generations in Jazz Foundation**

Thanks to Generations in Jazz, a senior citizen often sits down next to a middle schooler and both blow into saxophones.

Founded in 2001, Generations in Jazz is a presenting foundation dedicated to music education and the preservation of the original American art form called Jazz. Through a multitude of educational experiences, the goals of the organization are to provide opportunities to learn and perform jazz music. From seniors who volunteer in Lafayette schools or at the annual jazz camp to students who are eager to learn, Generations in Jazz has become an amalgamation of music historians, educators, and musicians of all ages and experiences.

Generations in Jazz has stimulated, supported or hosted the following annual activities in the community:

- Lafayette Jazz Festival (March)
- Jazz Café (May)
- Summer Jazz Workshop (July)
- September Jazz in the Plaza
- Los Medanos Jazz Competition (December)

The organization’s needs include room for rehearsals and performances, audio tapes, and books about music.

### **Other Organizations**

### Futures Explored, Inc.

Futures Explored is headquartered in Lafayette and their members visit the library each Monday, making use primarily of the periodicals section. Some Futures Explored clients use library computers.

The mission of Futures Explored, Inc. is to provide life skills and work-related training to 102 adult consumers with mild to moderate developmental disabilities, through an innovative program located in downtown Lafayette. Groups and individuals visit the library. This group has requested assistive technology, an ADA-compliant facility, multimedia, and a specialized collection of appropriate reading level material for their clients.

### Boy Scouts of America

The 1,665 members in the Aklan District of the Boys Scouts of America live in the communities of Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga. There are nine Cub Scout packs and eight Boy Scout troops active in Lafayette this year. Cub Scouts Troop 200 and Boy Scouts Troops 204 and 241 serve Lafayette. There has been a long relationship between the Scouts and the Library. Troop 204 sets up and takes down the Friends book sales twice a month. For this, the Troop won the National Honor Patrol Award. The Library provides tours and instruction that supports the programming needs of the den, pack, or troop. Groups visit the library to obtain materials that relate to particular projects, programs or badge activities.

### Girls Scouts of America

With 65 troops, the 918 members in Lafayette's Girl Scouts of America provides programs to girls, encouraging increased skill building and responsibility, while promoting the development of strong leadership and decision-making skills. Girls, aged 5-17, participate in age-appropriate programs. Library visits consist of individuals or troops working on their reading badge or exploring career alternatives. The Girl Scouts have expressed an interest in expanded library collection, a community room, multimedia equipment, and teleconferencing facilities. As with the Boy Scouts, the new library's Arts & Sciences Enrichment Program will offer the scouts exciting new activities

### Lafayette Rotary

Chartered in 1946, the Rotary Club of Lafayette's fifty three members work with young people, help the community and play an active part in international and world community service. In 1998, the Rotary Club of Lafayette established a program to donate a new book to the Lafayette library in honor of each speaker at the Club's weekly meetings, about 50 books per year. Like other service organizations, members from this organization are particularly interested in having space for meetings equipped with multimedia equipment for presentations. Enhanced library resources are especially helpful when members review community needs for service projects, and undertake outreach to students in the community to advertise their scholarship program. Rotary also uses its funds to purchase band instruments for use by middle-school students.

### Soroptimist International of Lafayette

Soroptimist International, a volunteer service organization for women in business, management and other professions, is interested in the new library serving as a centrally-located meeting place, as well as an outlet for the distribution of organizational and scholarship information.

### American Association of University Women

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women was founded in 1956. It is a multi-generational group of 270 women who joined together locally to achieve AAUW goals. This branch is actively committed to achieving outreach to the community, including the annual Sister-to-Sister Summit and the Tech Trek (math and science camp) for middle school girls, as well as annual awards given to high school and college women. Through its fellowships and grants, over 7000 women have achieved advanced degrees. AAUW also provides funding and support for women in higher education who are seeking redress for discrimination. Their mission: To promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. This community group has expressed an interest in meeting room space to both congregate and conduct programs.

## **Demographics**

The following section identifies key demographic information about the City of Lafayette. The city boundaries also define the boundaries of the service area for the Lafayette Library. The demographic information is compared with the same for Contra Costa County, California and the United States. Information was gathered from the US Census Bureau, National Institute for Literacy, California Departments of Education and Economic Development, and Association of Bay Area Governments.

### **Current Population Characteristics and Projected Growth of Lafayette**

The City of Lafayette is within Contra Costa County within the eastern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area. The City is 14.6 square miles, and it is located about 17 miles east of San Francisco, 10 miles east of Oakland, 45 miles north of San Jose, and 75 miles west of Sacramento. The recent census benchmarked Lafayette's population as 23,908 in year 2000.

Table F, on the next page, describes Lafayette's major demographic characteristics.

**Table F**  
**Community Characteristics of Lafayette in Year 2000**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Total Population	23,908	100.0%
Population by Race		
White	20,754	86.8%
Black or African American	131	0.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	53	0.2
Asian	1,957	8.2
Native American and Other Pacific Islander	20	0.1
Some other race	194	0.8
Two or more races	788	3.3
Hispanic or Latino and Race		
Hispanic or Latino	945	4.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	22,963	96.0
Population by Sex		
Male	11,671	48.8%
Female	12,237	51.2
Population by Age		
Under 5 years	1,308	5.5%
5 – 17 years	4,878	20.4
18 – 64 years	14,275	59.7
65 years and over	3,447	14.4
Median Age (Years)	42.3	
Total Households		
Total Households	6,755	100.0%
Family Households (% of population)	6,755	73.873.8
Average Household Size	2.6	
Total Housing Units		
Total Housing Units	9,334	100.0%
Owner-occupied units	7,024	76.7
Renter-occupied units	2,128	23.3
Vacant units	182	1.9
Population Income Characteristics and Poverty in 1999		
Per capita income	\$102,107	
Per capita income	\$54,319	
Individuals in Poverty (%of population)	672	2.9
Population by Educational Attainment		
Population 25 years and over	16,627	100.0%
High school graduate	1,450	8.7
Bachelor's degree	6,347	38.2
Graduate or professional degree	4,955	29.8
Civilian Veterans (% of population)	2,165	9.1
Population with a Disability	2,167	9.1

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Lafayette was established in 1848 with three houses, making it the first community in central Contra Costa County. The community grew slowly, and by 1960 the number of households had only increased to 2,285 and the population had grown to 7,114.

Rapid growth arrived with the construction of Highway 24 and the BART rapid transit system. The community experienced a 185% increase in the number of households and 188% increase in population between 1960 and 1970. In response to this rapid growth and the lack of local planning control, the community incorporated in 1968. The rates of growth were more modest after incorporation until 1990, and there has been little change since 1990.

**Table G**  
**Lafayette Population Growth 1960-2000**

	<b>1960</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Population	7,114	20,484	20,837	23,501	23,908
Number of Households	2,285	6,504	7,822	8,976	9,152
Persons per Household	3.1	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.6

*Sources: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 1990 Census, Historical Census Populations of California Cities, Places and Towns 1850-2000*

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) prepares population, households, jobs, labor force and income forecasts almost every year for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The forecasts extend out over a 30-year period and include subregional study areas within each of the counties. Lafayette is in its own subregion that includes its sphere of influence with approximately 530 additional households outside the city limits. Based on ABAG's data, Lafayette's growth projections for its subregional study area through 2030 remain modest with an 11% increase in population and a 13% increase in households.

**Table H**  
**Lafayette and Its Sphere of Influence Projected Population, Household Growth, and Average Number of Persons per Household 2000-2030**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>
Population	25,334	26,400	27,100	27,400	27,900	27,900	28,100
Number of Households	9,682	10,080	10,360	10,560	10,760	10,860	10,960
Persons per Household	2.60	2.61	2.61	2.59	2.58	2.56	2.55

*Source: Association of Bay Area Governments, Projections 2003*

## **Academic Performance Index**

The Academic Performance Index (API) is the cornerstone of California's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999. The API measures the academic performance and growth of schools with a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000. A school's score on the API is an indicator of a school's performance level. A score of 800 is considered a mark of quality, and

a school's growth is measured by how well it is moving toward or past that mark. Approximately 18% of California schools were at or above the 800 mark on the 2001 Base API: 21% of elementary schools; 15% of middle schools; 5% of high schools; and 14% of small schools. Schools are also ranked statewide in comparison with other schools and with similar schools based on their API. These rankings are from 1, the lowest, to 10, the highest.

There are two school districts within Lafayette: Lafayette School District operates four elementary schools and the community's only middle school and Acalanes Union High School District operates the only high school in Lafayette. As the tables below illustrate, Lafayette students have continually scored among the highest of all California students. All schools have exceeded the median statewide performance target.

**Table I**  
**Academic Index (API) Growth for Lafayette Schools 2002-03**

	STAR 2003 Percent Tested	2003 API (Growth)	2002 API (Base)	Met Growth Target		
				Schoolwide	Comparable Improvement	Awards Eligible
Elementary Schools						
Burton Valley	99	903	904	Yes	Yes	No
Happy Valley	100	895	896	Yes	Yes	No
Lafayette	100	868	867	Yes	Yes	No
Springhill	100	873	871	Yes	Yes	No
Middle School						
M.H. Stanley	100	879	875	Yes	Yes	No
High School						
Acalanes	99	831	833	Yes	Yes	No

*Source: California Department of Education, Policy and Evaluation Division*

Lafayette schools' performance has been high since the inception of API. The following tables show the performance of each individual school since 1999/2000.

**Table J**  
**API Score, Statewide Rank, and Similar Schools Rank for Lafayette Public Schools  
2000-03**

<b>2002 API</b>	<b>2002 Statewide Rank</b>	<b>2002 Similar Schools Rank</b>	<b>2001 API</b>	<b>2001 Statewide Rank</b>	<b>2001 Similar Schools Rank</b>	<b>2000 API</b>	<b>2000 Statewide Rank</b>	<b>2000 Similar Schools Rank</b>
<b>Burton Valley Elementary School</b>								
904	10	5	898	10	7	912	10	7
<b>Happy Valley Elementary School</b>								
896	10	5	922	10	9	939	10	9
<b>Lafayette Elementary School</b>								
867	10	2	874	10	2	879	10	6
<b>Springhill Elementary School</b>								
871	10	2	889	10	4	905	10	6
<b>M.H. Stanley Middle School</b>								
875	10	8	883	10	8	894	10	8



Acalanes High School								
833	10	9	832	10	8	820	10	7

Source: California Department of Education, Policy and Evaluation Division

## Poverty Level

The 1999 poverty rate for individuals living in Lafayette is significantly lower than those for the county, California and United States.

**Table K**  
**Percentage of Population with Incomes Below Poverty Level**  
**for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions in 1999**

<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Contra Costa County</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>United States</b>
2.9%	7.6%	14.2%	12.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Per Capita Income

The per capita income for Lafayette is significantly higher than the county, California and United States per capita income 1999 rates.

**Table L**  
**Per Capita Income for Lafayette and Compative Jurisdictions**  
**(In 1999 dollars)**

<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Contra Costa County</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>United States</b>
\$54,319	\$30,615	\$22,711	\$21,587

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Literacy Rates

To understand levels of literacy in the United States, the US Department of Education commissioned an assessment of literacy skills of adults. The result was the National Adult Literacy Survey completed in 1992. The Survey measured the literacy skills of individuals aged 16 years and older based on five levels of competency:

- Level 1: Adults at this level can usually sign their name, identify a country in a short article, locate one piece of information in a sports article, locate the expiration date on a driver's license, and total a bank deposit entry.
- Level 2: Adults at this level can usually compare and contrast easily identifiable information, integrate information from a document, and perform arithmetic operation when the numbers and operation are specified.
- Levels 3 – 5: Adults in these levels usually can perform the same types or more complex tasks on increasingly lengthy and dense texts and volumes.

Using the results of the Survey in combination with the 1990 Census, Stephen Reder of Portland State University estimated adult literacy proficiencies for states, counties, Congressional districts and cities with adult populations over 5,000. According to Reder's results, 10% of Lafayette's adult population is functioning at Level 1, and 16% is functioning at Levels 1 or 2. This means that Lafayette is a very literate community with 84% of its adult population at Levels 3 through 5 when compared to 65% for the county, 54% for California, and 49-54% for the U.S.

**Table M**  
**Literacy Proficiency Rates for Adults in Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions in 1992**  
**(percentage of adults)**

<i>Proficiency Level</i>	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
Level 1	10%	17%	23%	21-23%
Level 1 or 2	16	35	46	46-51

*Source: National Institute for Literacy, The State of Literacy in America: Estimates at the Local, State and National Levels, 1998.*

### Unemployment Rate

Lafayette's current unemployment rate is 2.9% which is an indicator of the community's good economic health. This rate is significantly lower than the current rates for the County, California and United States.

**Table N**  
**Unemployment Rate – Not Seasonally Adjusted – for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions October 2003**

<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
2.9%	5.2%	6.4%	5.6%

*Source: State of California, Economic Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, November 12, 2003.*

### Population Composition by Age

Lafayette's median age in 2000 was 42.3 years. This is higher than the median age in the county (36.4), California (33.3) and US (35.3). The older demographic profile is a result of more than one-fourth (26.0%) of residents being 55 years and over as compared to 20.2% of county residents, 18.4% of state residents, and 21% of the nation's residents. At the other end of the age demographics, Lafayette's population 19 years and under grew at a higher rate than the rates for the county, California and U.S. The city's growth rate between 1990 and 2000 for this population group was 9.5% as compared to 5.4% for the county, 3.8% for California, and 0% for the U.S. during the same 10-year period.

**Table O**  
**Total Population, Population Distribution by Age and Median Age**  
**for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions in 2000**

	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
Total Population	23,908	948,816	33,871,648	281,421,906
Under 5 years	5.5%	7.0%	7.3%	6.8%
5 – 9 years	7.5	7.7	8.0	7.3
10 – 14 years	8.4	7.6	7.6	7.3
15 – 19 years	6.0	6.7	7.2	7.2
20 – 24 years	2.9	5.3	7.0	6.7
25 – 34 years	8.0	13.3	15.4	14.2
35 – 44 years	16.9	17.3	16.2	16.0
45 – 54 years	18.8	15.0	12.8	13.4
55 – 59 years	6.7	5.1	4.3	4.8
60 – 64 years	4.9	3.8	3.4	3.8
65 – 74 years	7.3	5.8	5.6	6.5
75 – 84 years	5.5	4.1	3.8	4.4
85 years and over	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.5
Median Age (years)	42.3	36.4	33.3	35.3

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000*

The demographic data for the older and younger populations reveal a trend in Lafayette that is not matched at the county, state or national level. These two population groups, when combined, equal more than half (53.4%) the city's population. Further, the population in these groups grew faster in Lafayette between 1990 and 2000 (8.5%) than at the county (5.6%), state (3.2%) and national (0%) levels.

**Table P**  
**Total Population, Percentage of Population in Selected Age Segments, and Changes in**  
**These Segments for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions Between 1990 and 2000**

	<i>Lafayette</i>		<i>Contra Costa County</i>		<i>California</i>		<i>United States</i>	
	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>
Total Population	23,501	23,908	803,732	948,816	29,760,021	33,871,648	248,709,873	281,421,906
19 years and under	25.1%	27.4%	27.5%	29.0%	29.0%	30.1%	28.6%	28.6%
55 years and over	24.1	26.0	19.1	20.2	18.0	18.4	21.0	21.0
Total	49.2	53.4	46.6	49.2	47.0	48.5	49.6	49.6
Change in percent of population in selected age segments	+8.5%		+5.6%		+3.2%		0.0%	

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 1990 Census*

## Population by Occupation

Lafayette residents are predominantly employed in professional occupations (64.3%) at a significantly higher rate than the rates for the county (41.0%), California (36.0%) and United States (33.6%).

**Table Q**  
**Percent of Total Employed Population 16 Years and Older by Occupation**  
**for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions in 2000**

<i>Occupation Types</i>	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
Management, Professional, Related	64.3%	41.0%	36.0%	33.6%
Service	7.8	13.4	14.8	14.9
Sales and Office	20.1	28.8	26.8	26.7
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	0.1	0.2	1.3	0.7
Construction, Extraction, Maintenance	4.2	8.9	8.4	9.4
Production, Transportation, Material Moving	3.6	8.5	12.7	14.6

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000*

## Median Property Value

As with many communities within the San Francisco Bay Area, the median property values in Lafayette are significantly higher than the County, California or United States. In 2000, Lafayette's median property value was \$583,000 as compared to \$267,800 in the County, \$211,500 in California, and \$119,600 in the United States.

**Table R**  
**Median Property Value of Owner Occupied Units**  
**in Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions (2000 \$)**

<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
\$583,000	\$267,800	\$211,500	\$120,978

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000*

## Population by Educational Level

Lafayette is a well-educated community. Of the residents aged 25 years or older, 97.7% have completed at least high school. This compares to 87% for the county, 76.8% for California, and 80.4% for the U.S. In terms of higher education levels, 68% of Lafayette residents hold a bachelor's degree, graduate or professional degree, as compared to the county (33%), California (26.6%) or United States (24.4%).

**Table S**  
**Percent of Persons 25 Years and Over by Educational Level Attained**  
**in Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions in 2000**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	0.7%	5.2%	11.5%	7.5%
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	1.6	7.8	11.7	12.1
High school graduate, including equivalency	8.7	19.8	20.1	28.6
Some college, no degree	15.8	24.4	22.9	21.0
Associate degree	5.2	7.7	7.1	6.3
Bachelor's degree	38.2	22.8	17.1	15.5
Graduate or professional degree	29.2	12.2	9.5	8.9
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	68.0	35.0	26.6	24.4

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000*

### Household Characteristics

Lafayette is a community of families with children. The percentage of family households with children under 18 years old is higher in Lafayette than the county, California or U.S.. Lafayette also has a higher number of households with individuals 65 years or older than the county or California.

**Table T**  
**Total Households and Percent of Households with Residents of Selected Ages**  
**for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions in 2000**

	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
Total Households	9,152	344,129	11,502,870	105,539,122
Family Households with Own Children Under 18 Years	73.8%	70.4%	68.9%	68.5%
Households with Individuals 65 Years and Over	24.9	22.2	22.3	31.3

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census*

### Year Householder Moved Into Unit

Lafayette is the home of many long-term residents. Almost half (47.4%) of Lafayette households have lived in the community for over 20 years as compared to 34.5% for county households, 31.0% for California and 35.2% for the U.S.. Almost 15% of the householders have lived in the same home in Lafayette for at least 35 years, significantly higher than the percentages for the county (8.1%), California (6.9%) and U.S. (9.7%).

**Table U**  
**Year Householder Moved Into Unit**  
**for Lafayette and Comparative Jurisdictions (percentage of households)**

	<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Contra Costa County</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>United States</i>
1999-2000	13.0%	18.5%	21.4%	19.9%
1995-1998	25.1	30.1	31.6	28.9
1990-1994	14.5	17.0	16.0	16.1
1980-1989	18.7	16.5	15.2	15.6
1970-1979	13.9	9.9	8.9	9.9
1969 or earlier	14.8	8.1	6.9	9.7
Over 20 years	47.4	34.5	31.0	35.2

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census*

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Centrally located among the East Bay hills in the urban San Francisco Bay Area, Lafayette is a community that is proud of its distinctive small town atmosphere. It has a busy downtown, which includes a flourishing retail and commercial business district, a range of housing types, the Lafayette Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Station, local and regional bus transportation, the Library, theaters, places of worship, parks, and regional pedestrian and bicycle paths. Well-established neighborhoods and oak-lined hillsides maintain the community's semi-rural character.

It has some of California's top elementary, middle and high schools. Lafayette's proximity to St. Mary's College, John F. Kennedy University, University of California at Berkeley, and Mills College gives the community a distinctly academic feel with 30% of its adults having attended graduate school.

Throughout the community, from the downtown to semi-rural valleys, there is a desire to preserve the community's character while enjoying all the cultural, educational, professional and technical benefits of the Bay Area.

In sum, Lafayette is ...

- Passionate about its children and proud of its schools
- Committed to preserving its semi-rural character and the beauty of Lafayette's built and natural environment
- A community of well-established, active neighborhoods
- Well-run with a City organization dedicated to the community's quality of life
- A community of volunteers
- Popular with seniors over 55
- Well-educated
- A good place for people with developmental disabilities to live
- A community of readers and Library users
- And – a community that needs the Lafayette Library & Learning Center

*Lafayette is a community of involved citizens bound by shared passions. We are passionate about our neighborhoods and civic involvement. We are passionate about children, family and education. We passionately believe in the power of learning, the value of information and the power of ideas. And more importantly, we act on these beliefs every day to transform our community and to bring our ideas to life. These shared passions and beliefs are the heart of Lafayette. And our heart needs a new home: **a new library**. It will be more than a*

*home for the knowledge and information that guide our daily lives; it will be a learning center where we can explore, imagine, grow and congregate. Our new library will be a central gathering place for all of us, offering the highest values of Lafayette as a community, the heart of the values we share.*

*-- Building on a Dream: The New Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Lafayette Community Foundation.*

## **Lafayette's Past**

**L**afayette's history as a community began more than 10,000 years ago when the Saclans, a Miwok subgroup, settled here villages along the area's many creeks. In 1846, Elam Brown, the second Yankee settler in Contra Costa County, led a 14-family wagon train through the Donner Pass. After his arrival, he bought the 3,329-acre Mexican land grant called Rancho Acalanes, which is now almost all of present day Lafayette. The first three homes were built in February 1848, making this the first community in central Costa Contra County. In 1857, the postmaster named the town "La Fayette". (In 1932, it was changed to today's spelling.) Lafayette's most historic event occurred in 1860-1861 when the Pony Express stopped in town 19 times to exchange horses at what is now the intersection of Moraga Road and Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette remained a quiet farming community until the post-World War II building boom. Rapid urbanization took place throughout Contra Costa County including Lafayette.

Selected milestones that define Lafayette's legacy as a community focused on children and education include:

**1852** – The first Lafayette Grammar School opened with 12 students. It is, by some accounts, the first school in Contra Costa County.

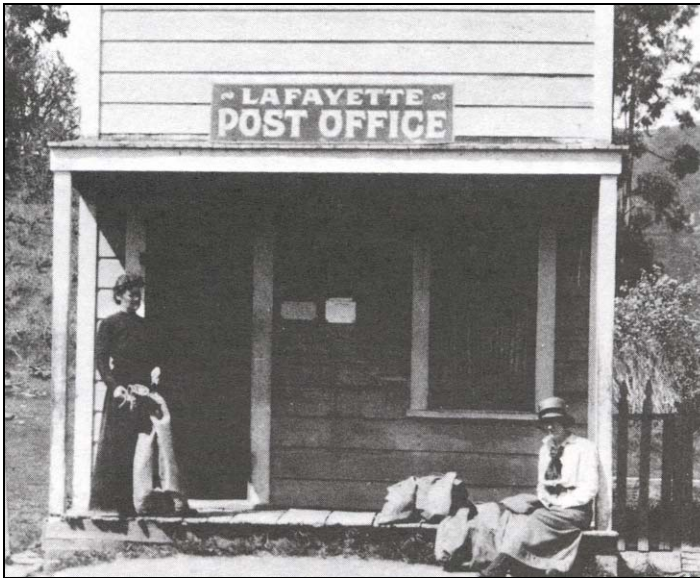
**1860** – Lafayette residents organized the first subscription library in Contra Costa County. In a press release for the 1962 opening of the existing Library, Bertha Hellum, the County Librarian, said:

*Lafayette is believed to have had the first form of public library service in Contra Costa County, with a subscription library organized in 1860. Typical of the thousand or more society libraries started throughout the United States during the nineteenth century, this early Lafayette Library demonstrated the advantages of sharing books for the common benefit... pioneering the American public library movement.*

**1913** – The Contra Costa County Library system was established.



**1915** – The Lafayette branch of the County Library started with 60 books in the corner of the Post Office. The circulation was 201.



**First Library in Lafayette**

**1940** – A new Library was built on School District property with funds from the Federal WPA Program and through community library subscriptions. The new Library had a 1,800-book capacity.

**1939** – Friends of the Lafayette Library volunteer support organization is formed.

**1945** – Library circulation grew to 10,000 annually.

**1949** – There were 1,267 library cards issued. With an over-capacity collection of 4,529 books, the community began planning the enlargement of the Library.

**1957** – Pursuant to the Library Services Act enacted by the US Congress in 1956, the LLA submitted petitions to the County to form the first county service area in California in order to build a new Lafayette Library.

**1962** – A new (and still existing) Lafayette Library opened. Circulation was over 100,000 annually, a 900% increase in 17 years.



**Current Lafayette Library, built in 1962**

**1966** –The collection was 27,647 books, and the 1965/1966 annual circulation was 186,269 books. The staff included a branch librarian, a children's librarian, four other permanent staff, and three student assistants.

**1968** – The community of Lafayette becomes incorporated as the City of Lafayette.

**1996** – The City agrees to become the responsible agency for replacing the old library.

## **The City of Lafayette in 2004**

### **Land Uses**

Lafayette adopted a revised General Plan in 2002 after a 10-year community planning process. The product of literally hundreds of public meetings and discussions, the new Plan is an accurate portrait of the community now and where it wants to be in the future. The following are excerpts from the Plan's Introduction that best capture this special place:

*Lafayette is a unique and fortunate community. Unique in its magnificent natural setting, and fortunate that through the tireless volunteer efforts of its citizens, it has preserved a semi-rural ambiance despite the severe pressures of urbanization.*

*The City's natural terrain - undeveloped hillsides, generous spans of open space, mature oaks, natural creeks and numerous tributaries, and spectacular scenic viewsheds - defines the City's physical setting. Complementing this foothill environment are the Lafayette Reservoir and the area's trail system, including the nation's first rail-to-trail project - the Lafayette-Moraga Trail. In our residential neighborhoods, a small town look predominates, with many narrow winding roads and mature vegetation. The presence of older neighborhoods with smaller homes lends variety to the residential fabric of the City, while*

*the City's superior schools enhance the quality of family life. The city's downtown is notable for its low-rise architecture, multi-family housing and local merchants. Together, these distinguishing features give Lafayette its structure, character, charm, and most importantly, its community identity.*

*This new Plan heralds the rebirth of the Downtown. It recognizes the value of preserving and enhancing the center of Lafayette as a place where residents can congregate to shop, take part in civic activities, and enjoy the ambiance of small town life. Downtown Lafayette continues to evolve as new retail, residential and commercial developments are introduced while preserving and enhancing existing historic landmarks and buildings and scenic vistas.*

*This General Plan celebrates the singular charm and value of Lafayette in an otherwise urbanized county. Careful implementation of its goals and policies will allow Lafayette to remain a semi-rural community, whose vibrant downtown and pastoral neighborhoods are set within a magnificent open space environment.*

Lafayette is a suburban community with 62% of its area developed with residential uses. The commercial corridor runs along Mount Diablo Blvd. and Golden Gate Way. The remainder of the city is in public uses and open space.

**Table V**  
**Land Uses in Lafayette and Its Sphere of Influence**

<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Within City Limits (14.6 square miles)</b>	<b>Within Sphere of Influence (0.5 square miles)</b>
Rural Residential	17.4%	12.2%
Low, Medium and High Density Single Family and Multi-Family residential	62%	87.8%
Commercial, Office	2.7%	NA
Community Facilities, Civic Uses (primarily schools)	1.4%	
Parkland	0.9%	
Open Space	15.5%	

*Source: Lafayette General Plan, 2002*

## **Circulation**

Lafayette is bisected by State Route 24 which provides residents and businesses easy vehicular access to the Interstate 680 corridor to the east and through the Caldecott Tunnel to Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco to the west. Within the city, there are four arterial corridors. Mount Diablo Blvd. runs parallel to SR 24 the length of the city. Mount Diablo Blvd. is the main commercial street through the downtown, and its intersection with First Street (the site of the LL&LC) is one of the busiest in the city. The other corridors are: Pleasant Hill Road which connects Lafayette to cities to the north; Deer Hill Road which provides local and regional access to the Lafayette BART station; and Moraga Road which connects the city to the town of Moraga to the south. Moraga Road is the second busiest arterial route in the city,

and it is where the existing library is located. The remaining streets in Lafayette are minor collectors, residential, and rural roads.

In terms of other forms of circulation, Lafayette is fortunate to have a BART station in its downtown within easy walking distance of stores, neighborhoods, parks, and the LL&LC site (0.7 miles). This station allows residents transit access to Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco. County Connection provides local and regional bus service in Lafayette with Mount Diablo Blvd., its main route through the city. There is a bus stop in front of the LL&LC site and seven more stops within ¼-mile. Finally, Lafayette has an extensive and much-used pedestrian and bicycle system through the downtown and into the residential areas.

## **Schools**

As noted previously, Lafayette has:

- One public high school
- One public middle school
- Four public elementary schools
- Four private schools
- Six school-age daycare facilities
- Fourteen preschools
- Two adult daycare training facilities

## **Libraries**

Lafayette has one 6,780-square foot Library built 42 years ago.

## **The People of Lafayette in 2004**

### **Passionate about children and proud of its schools**

Lafayette is a community of families. In fact, a remarkable 74% of the Lafayette's households have children under 18 years old living in the house. The parents of these children and the schools' well-trained teachers nurture the tradition of excellence in Lafayette's schools. The Lafayette School District offers a full range of services based upon the needs of the students. Acalanes High School ranks among the top high schools in California in terms of academic and extra-curricular offerings. Public library staff, teachers and school media specialists work together to maximize student resources at the schools, and internet access to a variety of electronic resources and the public library's catalog is available at each school site. All of the schools have an active parent organization. And community organizations, such as Lafayette

Arts & Science Foundation, Friends of the Lafayette Library, and Lafayette Community Foundation, contribute in numerous ways to children and schools. There are countless examples of citizen involvement almost every weekend throughout the city: car washes, bake sales, rummage sales, etc.

With its close proximity to St. Mary's College, University of California at Berkeley, John F. Kennedy University, and Mills College, many Lafayette residents are university professors, scientists, employees, and supporters of some of the Bay Area's most important educational and cultural institutions. Many are tireless advocates for excellence in education both locally and nationally. Lafayette parents, educators and civic activists all consider supporting the academic success of children a priority. The community also places a high value on meeting their obligation to the larger communities of the state and the nation. They believe that the graduates of Lafayette schools possess all the intellectual and critical thinking skills necessary for excellent academic performance beyond high school and to equip them to be the next generation's leaders in science, the arts, education and politics.

Finding inspiration in the legacy of Nobel Laureate Dr. Glenn Seaborg, the community has created the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium.

### **A community of well-established, active neighborhoods**

An indicator that Lafayette is a community of neighborhoods is the fact that there are an extraordinary 69 active neighborhood groups and associations. Almost every corner of the residential areas is within one of these groups or associations, and they are active. At public meetings regarding the library, many members of these associations participated, as they did in the 2000 focus groups. A member of the Lafayette Homeowners Council, an umbrella organization representing many of these associations and groups, serves on the City's LBC and has been very supportive of the LL&LC.

### **Well-run with a City organization dedicated to the community's quality of life**

The City of Lafayette municipal organization – from its volunteer elected and appointed officials to its staff – is stable and well-run. Many of the current City Council, Commission and Committee members have been active in the City in some capacity for more than 20 years. There are 18 established commissions and committees with 128 citizen members. Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell has worked for Lafayette for 25 years, and City Manager Steven Falk has served the City for 14 years.

### **A community of volunteers**

As noted elsewhere, Lafayette's residents exhibit a high spirit of volunteerism. Parents are very active volunteers for educational efforts, donating time and funding to various school support organizations. The Lafayette School District reports an average of 100 volunteer hours per week, for a total of 3,600 hours of voluntary service per year at each elementary school. Volunteers at Stanley Middle School contribute 3,200 hours of service per year. Acalanes Union High School District reports that more than 250 parent volunteers provide approximately

35,000 hours of support each year, assisting with the schools' arts program, the college & career center, sports, and class events. Community members form an integral part of the greater learning community, by involving themselves in a variety of organizations including school committees, booster groups and Parents Clubs. The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation has over 100 volunteers. The Library has 10-12 volunteers per year providing 230 hours in 2002/2003.

### **Popular with Seniors over 55**

Lafayette has a significantly large proportion of its population – 26% – aged 55 years or older. This is high compared to the rest of the county (20.2%), California (18.4%) or US (21%). Lafayette also has a significantly higher median age – 42.2 years – when compared to the county (36.4), California (33.3) or U.S. (35.3).

Older adults find the Lafayette community a good place to live for a number of reasons:

- Neighborhoods remain stable with almost half of the households remaining in the same home for over 20 years
- There are opportunities for lifelong learning at St. Mary's College, University of California at Berkeley, John Kennedy University, and Mills College
- There are ample opportunities for volunteer experiences
- Lafayette is close to services used by older adults, such as cultural, medical, and regional mass transportation.
- Chateau Lafayette is located within two blocks of the old (and new) library.
- The climate is mild.

### **Well-educated**

Lafayette's residents are well-educated with a higher percentage of its population aged 25 years or older (97.7%) having completed post-secondary education than the averages indicate for the county, state, or nation. Lafayette's residents also have a per capita income that is significantly higher than average. These residents place a high priority on education for themselves and for their children. They fully understand the role that the Library can play in enhancing and supplementing the community's intellectual environment and quality of life. One of Lafayette's defining characteristics is the fact that almost 30% of the adult population attended graduate school. This extraordinarily high figure is reflected in so much of what happens in the community – from the high level of volunteerism to the verbal debates and consensus building that so often occur in the City Council chambers.

### **A community of Library users and readers**

Lafayette residents are frequent library users, well-educated, and demanding readers. Despite service and physical limitations, the old library:

- Averages 500 visitors per day.
- Circulated 205,515 items in 2002/2003, approximately 31 items per square foot, the second highest number of circulated items per square foot in the 23-branch County system.
- Circulated an average of 15 items per Library patron in 2002/2003, 42% greater than the County's average of 11.5 items per patron.
- Has the fourth highest circulation rate per hour, 103 items per hour, in the County.
- Holds 60,658 items in its collection currently, approximately 9 items per square foot, the second highest number of items per square foot in the County.
- Has the highest circulation per capita rate, 8.42 items per person, of the eight communities in the County with a population of 20,000-40,000.
- Has 13,651 registered library patrons, 56% of the population, the fifth highest in the County.
- Answered 17,000 reference questions in 2002/2003, 0.69 reference transactions per capita, which is the highest rate among the eight similar communities in the County.
- Offered 113 programs with a total attendance of 3,013 – most of these were children 2-12 years in age.

Lafayette's residents have very high expectations for library services, use the library often, and have worked hard to ensure that the LL&LC will satisfy these high expectations and service needs. The community's increasing population and its high demand for library services cannot be met in the 1962-built, inadequate 6,720-square foot facility, and Lafayette Library patrons do use other libraries. In 2002/2003, Lafayette's registered patrons borrowed 222,470 items from their own branch library and those in Moraga, Orinda and Walnut Creek as well as the Central Library in Pleasant Hill. This is an average of 16.3 items per patron, which is the fourth highest average in the County.

Lafayette supports two independent bookstores, one of which specializes in books and related materials for children and young teens. That a community of this size can support two independent bookstores speaks to the community interest in books and reading.

Dave Simpson, owner and operator of the Lafayette Bookstore and community library needs assessment participant, has leveraged access to readers and book lovers in Lafayette into support for literacy countywide. When the County Library's adult literacy project, Project Second Chance, was looking for volunteers and financial support, Mr. Simpson used his list of over 100 book clubs to contact potential volunteers and supporters. He brings a Random

House representative to the Bookstore one or two times a year to give talks to book clubs to raise money for Project Second Chance and to recruit volunteers. Mr. Simpson co-sponsors Project Second Chance's annual fundraising dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel. The hotel is generous in making space available for the dinner and, for the past two years has donated the proceeds of their June martini tasting event to Project Second Chance. Project Second Chance staff and supporters and Dave Simpson see the success of their partnership as a clear indication that *people who love to read want to help someone who can't*.

Lafayette's support for countywide adult literacy combined with the community use of the library and support of local bookstores is indicative of Lafayette as a community of readers and booklovers. This support also underscores the needs expressed through the assessment process for expanded collections to meet high demand for both recreational reading and reading for information materials and for readers' services. Needs assessment participants indicated that teens and children and their families need more recreational reading materials, adults and seniors also want and need more recreational reading materials, specifically mentioning bestsellers, new books, fiction and travel books.

### **And – a community that needs the Lafayette Library & Learning Center**

After eight years of searching for the perfect site, a rigorous public design review process, and hundreds of hours of public meetings, it is clear there is strong community support for the LL&LC's location in the downtown, for a library design that recognizes the site as the geographical and historical center of town, and for a building that effectively uses light, space, and state-of-the-art technologies. The LL&LC will be the civic focal point, a center of regional learning, and a source of tremendous pride in the community; the Lafayette Library & Learning Center will be the most ambitious and most important public project ever attempted in Lafayette.

Because of the building's import, the need to increase the number of public service hours and offer a consistent schedule of operation is critical. Offering vastly improved educational, informational and cultural services, the LL&LC will be easily accessible from the street and public transportation, located close to schools and retail and connected to walking paths and trails. An extremely busy portion of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail is located near the site. This paved multipurpose path provides pedestrians and cyclists with easy access to downtown. It also provides children walking to and from Lafayette Elementary School and Stanley Middle School with a safe and easy way to school and the LL&LC. Since there are few sidewalks other than in the downtown core, this trail is regularly used and well maintained. A careful analysis of community library needs, observations of library users, a thorough evaluation of the existing facility, and an intensive comparison with the libraries in other communities has resulted in the following list of the most often requested library services:

- Technology training lab
- Remote access to collections from school, work or home via computer



- Books and services that support school assignments, including a designated space for homework help and tutoring services
- A community meeting room with state-of-the-art teleconferencing and presentation equipment
- Multipurpose spaces, including an outdoor plaza to enhance pedestrian use and to create an inviting public space in the center of downtown
- Quiet study and reading spaces (with comfortable, sufficient seating)
- A used book retail space
- Enhanced coordination of services and programs with local schools, colleges and universities
- Greatly enlarged collections in a variety of formats, especially multimedia
- Improved reference collections
- Appropriately designed separate spaces for children, teens and adults
- A bright, inviting, and spacious facility
- A local history center space for collections, displays and exhibits
- A special emphasis on educational programs in the arts, sciences and history for children
- Space for music education and performance

Lafayette residents' high level of volunteerism, long-term participation in government, and strong tradition of getting things done to benefit the community distinguish its residents as people who will ensure that the LL&LC will be a community icon of great significance. Lafayette residents' energy, creativity, innovation, and risk-taking formed the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium at the LL&LC, ensuring it will serve as a regional learning center and as a model for other libraries in California.

### **The Community of Lafayette in 2020**

According to the city's general plan and other agency projections, Lafayette will be different in 2020, in at least the following ways:

- Lafayette's population has increased by 17% since 2000

- The number of households has increased by 11%
- There are seven more City recreational facilities
- There are seven more publicly-owned open space areas
- The city is crisscrossed with even more pedestrian and bicycle paths that tie Lafayette in with the region
- The amount of commercial use has grown by 16% to approximately 2.78 million square feet
- The Veterans Memorial Building completed in 2005 marks the western gateway into Lafayette's downtown and has spurred the revitalization of other properties in the west end
- The downtown core includes more mixed-use projects with retail, office and residential uses in close proximity to BART and community services
- The downtown has seen a growth of affordable housing with a range of densities and types, including more units for seniors and families in close proximity to transit, schools, LL&LC, parks, trails and community services
- The East End commercial area is anchored by the busy LL&LC at its western end
- The community's semi-rural character is preserved
- A dozen other cultural and educational institutions have joined the original twelve Seaborg Consortium partners and the LL&LC serves as a center for intellectual nourishment in the Bay Area
- The LL&LC is at the heart of the community, and is offering library services and learning programs for children, families, youth, teens, adults, seniors, students, teachers, businesses – everyone in the Lafayette community

## **The Plan of Service for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center**

In order to maintain the continued academic excellence of Lafayette's schools and to ensure equitable access, the LL&LC will provide enhanced learning opportunities through the Seaborg Consortium for all children and teens. The LL&LC will offer additional opportunities for the City and County Library to develop its already positive relationships with the two school districts serving the community. The LL&LC Plan of Service identifies and will implement programs and services to address the need for designated spaces for homework, tutoring, computer literacy skill-building, arts and sciences enrichment programs, and local history learning programs. To address the informational, educational and recreational needs of students, families, business people, seniors, people with disabilities, and adults pursuing lifelong learning, the Plan of Service outlines specific goals for enhancing collections, materials, technology and programming.

The Plan integrates appropriate electronic technologies to respond to a variety of identified service needs and to aid collection development goals to expand access to current topics and titles. New technology will also:

- Support lifelong learning and computer and other media literacy for children, teens, adults and seniors
- Assist persons with disabilities through the use of adaptive technology
- Increase the availability of information services to the business community and to City government
- Transform a large community meeting room from a program venue into a teleconferencing arena

The joint venture projects planned for the LL&LC by the City, two school districts, and County Library will develop, integrate and add new specialized resource collections and services to respond to the curriculum and homework help needs of all students. The projects will take advantage of the new Homework Center, Arts and Sciences Discovery Center, Technology Lab, and space used by the Lafayette Historical Society. New computer workstations in the Technology Lab will support homework help, computer and other media literacy classes, and provide access to the Internet and to other electronic databases offered through the County Library's Web page. These new spaces will:

- Connect students needing homework assistance or test-taking practice to online resources and services
- House specialized collections, including textbooks
- Serve the needs of the general public by providing a location for adult classes on computer and other media literacy

- Host workshops for parents on making effective use of online and electronic resources to help their children succeed in school
- Provide orientations to the LL&LC's electronic resources for City staff and the business community
- Host the activities generated through the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium
- Provide performance space for the Generations in Jazz programs

## **ANALYSIS OF LIBRARY SERVICE NEEDS**

### **Executive Summary**

Lafayette is a community of library users. Of the twenty-three communities in Contra Costa County served by a library, Lafayette ranks twelfth in population, yet generates the fourth highest circulation of all branches at 205,515 items per year. Despite the building's small size of 6,720 square feet, it welcomes 500 visitors daily and is the second busiest (per square foot) of the County Library's branches. In surveys conducted since 1998, respondents have provided information on their library usage patterns. To determine library service needs, library staff and consultants have:

- Analyzed library use statistics and output measures for past years
- Compared these with regional and county averages
- Interviewed library staff to determine the extent and rhythm of staff activity and space needs, as well as to reveal staff attitudes towards new technological options for service delivery
- Conducted library surveys to determine community perceptions and attitudes towards the existing library
- Observed library services and staff activities to verify user and staff perceptions
- Interviewed non-users to determine the potential for increased use by assessing non-user attitudes and perceptions

Additionally, individuals and groups have visited newer libraries around the Bay Area and beyond. Our recommendations regarding our service needs are a result of these efforts.

Many unmet library service needs were also identified as a result of this assessment and analysis process.

There is strong support for joint venture program space that includes a Technology Lab, Homework Center, a unique Arts and Science Discovery Center and other programs implemented by the Seaborg Consortium.

There is clear consensus that the LL&LC must provide capacity for 50% more items.

There is overwhelming support for a community meeting room and special purpose programming areas.

Lafayette's old library cannot meet any of these identified community needs, but the LL&LC will accommodate these urgently requested library services, as well as those services anticipated over the next twenty years.

### **What Services the Community Needs**

For nearly ten years, the City of Lafayette has involved hundreds of its residents, elected officials, school personnel, businesses, community organizations, special interest groups, and City staff in the planning for the LL&LC through a variety of means:

- Reading *Vistas*, reading the newspaper, noticing the A-frame signs and Community Sign Board announcing meetings and events, and attending Council, Commission and Committee meetings
- Reading and commenting on studies
- Being part of a focus group, being interviewed, responding to surveys
- Joining task forces and committees or just attending their meetings
- Attending the architect competition and filling out a comment card
- Attending the hands-on design workshop
- Speaking at public meetings

Demographic and statistical analyses have been also conducted. The existing library and its services have been evaluated by staff interviews, observations of users by consultants, focus groups, surveys and feasibility studies. New services have been compared with those offered in the past, as well as those offered by other libraries. This comprehensive needs assessment and analysis has resulted in the development of specific service objectives to improve services for the community. Further, a space needs assessment, strong building program, community-based site selection and architectural design competition resulted in the creation of the most important public project in the history of Lafayette, one that will provide vastly improved services tailored to meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of present and future Lafayette residents.

### **Children and Families**

#### **Collection Needs**

- Current, age-appropriate homework/curricula related materials
- Textbook collections
- Recreational reading materials
- More print reference resources
- Larger and more extensive entertainment video selections

- Books-on-tape
- Larger collections of music on CD
- Resources for parents who coach youth sports
- Resources for scouting activities and badge projects
- Resources for and about preschool children for parents and caregivers
- More subscriptions to children's periodicals

### **Service and Program Needs**

- Regular children's programs
- Better communication between schools and library on homework assignments and school curricula
- More story times (preschool, toddler time, lap-sit)
- After-school programs
- Listening and viewing stations for in-library use of audiovisual materials
- Summer activities and programs
- Extra copies of school-recommended reading lists
- Timely and informative publicity about library services, resources and programs
- Tutoring by teens and seniors
- Increased emphasis on arts and sciences programs
- The library as a field trip destination for elementary and middle school students
- Barrier free access to all areas and services of the new facility for physically and developmentally disabled children
- Assistive and adaptive materials and devices for physically and developmentally disabled children

### **Space Needs**

- Homework center with Internet access
- Quiet study areas
- Space for story hours
- Places for parents and caregivers to read to children
- Place for tutoring and homework help
- Place for more programs like arts, science labs, and science activities
- Proximity to local history sites, such as Lafayette Plaza and Pony Express site

## **Teens**

### **Collection Needs**

- Textbook collections
- Current homework / curricula related materials and course related research resources
- More print reference resources
- Larger and more extensive entertainment video selections
- Recreational reading materials
- Larger collections of music on CD, particularly jazz music

### **Service and Program Needs**

- Improved communication between schools and library on homework assignments and school curricula
- Access to word processing on computer workstations without waiting
- Listening and viewing stations for in-library use of audiovisual materials
- Extra copies of school-recommended reading lists
- Timely and informative publicity about library services, resources and programs.



- Barrier free access to all areas and services for physically and developmentally disabled teens
- Assistive and adaptive materials and devices for physically and developmentally disabled teens
- After-school remedial and accelerated student programming

### **Space Needs**

- Quiet study areas
- Homework center with Internet access
- Place to socialize
- Place to study, read, listen or view
- Group study areas
- Technology labs or cyberzones with computers
- Space that allows food
- Small, enclosed areas for tutoring
- Rehearsal and performance space for music programs

### **Adults and Seniors**

#### **Collection Needs**

- More nonfiction books, more current reference materials
- More fiction
- More new books and bestsellers
- More books
- Books-on-tape
- Larger collections of music on CD

- Financial planning and investment resources
- Audio and video materials
- Travel books
- Business resources
- E-books
- Larger selection of magazines and newspapers
- Computer software to borrow

### **Service and Program Needs**

- Assistance and support of local book clubs
- Listening and viewing stations for in-library use of audiovisual materials
- Access to used books for sale / retail used book store
- Announcement of literary activities in the area
- More computers
- Increased Internet access
- Classes on computer use
- Regularly scheduled adult programs
- Partnerships with community organizations in planning and presenting programs and services
- Training/education in the use of new online resources and service and orientations to library resources and services
- Lecture series (civics, arts, sciences, and history)
- Internet access for those who do not have access elsewhere
- Programs and services that build community and draw the community together (such as Citizen of the Year display)

- Art exhibits
- Timely and informative publicity about library services, resources and programs
- Multimedia equipment for group and individual use
- Author talks
- Media-making facilities and multimedia collections
- Remote access to library (from home)
- Barrier free access to all areas and services of the new facility for physically and developmentally disabled adults
- Assistive and adaptive materials and devices for physically and developmentally disabled adults
- Self-service stations, scanners, and photocopiers

### **Space Needs**

- Quiet reading and study areas (with comfortable seating)
- State-of-the-art computer facilities
- Space for displays and exhibits
- Space for and access to the Lafayette Historical Society's collections and resources, as well as space for historical displays and programs
- Small meeting space for book club discussions
- Meeting room for adult programs, and for use by community organizations (for meetings and programs)
- Used book store
- Pleasant outdoor space / community gathering space
- Teleconferencing facilities
- Program space for lectures and author talks
- A place to self-check out materials

## **Schools**

The LL&LC can help fill the needs of the schools for their library services. The schools have educational needs that cannot be met on-campus for a variety of reasons, including financial, staffing levels, space, school library hours, and security. The schools would like the LL&LC to meet these needs as part of the community partnership. Below are needs that the schools have not been able to meet within their existing libraries and that will be met by the LL&LC:

### **Collections**

- Access to school library collections is available only during limited hours
- Collections are focused on the curriculum, and do not provide the breadth of subjects needed to support more in depth research or the pursuit of interests outside the classroom
- Fiction collections do not have the depth and breadth to support book clubs, reading incentive programs, or encourage reading for fun
- Professional, certified staff is not available at all school sites to assist students

### **Readers' Seating**

- Despite renovation of most of the school libraries, seating is limited both in numbers and variety, and is restricted mainly to seating at tables and computer workstations
- No quiet study areas, separate group study areas, areas for tutors to work with students on homework, or comfortable attractive seating for young people

### **Meeting Rooms**

- There are no separate meeting rooms in the school libraries
- School libraries themselves are too often closed for students to be able to use as meeting spaces for youth clubs
- Joint venture programs held at a school library would impact regular school library services
- The community requires space for programs when the school library is not open
- School security protocols inhibit general community access to the campus

### **Technology**

- Facilities are too small to accommodate an increase in computer workstations
- Limited open hours preclude evening or weekend workshops on the use of online resources for students and families

## **SERVICE LIMITATIONS OF THE LAFAYETTE LIBRARY**

### **Executive Summary**

**T**he old 6,720-square foot library severely limits adequate library services. Its overall lack of needed space (as compared with the 26,583-square foot LL&LC) has resulted in cramped quarters and a poor physical layout. Library services suffer in all areas, including collections, readers' seating, staff work areas, technology, and meeting room space.

Inadequate Collections: Space limitations continue to hamper collection development, and the number of available books of all kinds is woefully inadequate.

Insufficient Readers' Seating: Because of limited space, readers' seating is 48% less than the accepted library standard of 5 seats per 1,000 residents.

Limited Staff Work Areas: The inadequacy of the staff work areas diminishes staff efficiency, limits the size and scope of volunteer programs, and hampers the activities of the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Lafayette Historical Society.

Inability to Keep Up With Technology: The existing Library was constructed when telephones were to be considered cutting-edge technology. Equipment of all kind has been squeezed everywhere possible throughout the building, despite the lack of electric and cable connections. The many programs envisioned by the schools and the Seaborg Consortium cannot exist within this environment.

Insufficient Meeting Room Space: The Library has no meeting space and so cannot fulfill a role as a venue in which information and knowledge is exchanged among people speaking with one another.

### **Inadequate Collections**

In 1969, just seven years after Lafayette's newest and only library was built, its book collection of 15,000 was already 75% larger than its facility planners had allowed. Space limitations continue to hamper collection development, and the number of available books of all kinds is woefully inadequate. According to the National Center for Education Statistics 2001, the national average of books per capita is 2.9. According to the California Library Statistics for 2001, the average of books per capita in California is 1.86. However, according to the County Library's Annual Statistics 2002/2003, number of books per capita is 1.0 at Lafayette Library. This means that it has 29% fewer books than the national average and only 53% of the collections housed by the average California library.

Today, the library holds 60,658 items of all types. Responses received from the community input process indicate dissatisfaction with the library's limited collection. There is strong consensus that the collection is outdated and is deficient in both breadth and depth of subject matter. Students, adults and seniors consistently requested a wider variety of formats, with a preference for multimedia materials. Parents wanted more storybooks and multimedia for preschool children and toddlers. Seniors and persons with vision disabilities asked for more large print materials and books on tape. More books of all kinds are a top priority. At focus groups, community meetings, interviews, and in surveys, the need for larger collections was repeated consistently. Concern was expressed not only about the inadequate size of the collections in all formats, but also about the difficulty of finding materials due to the inadequacy of the space for appropriate shelving. Without more space, the library will be unable to provide the collections needed by the community, or to display them in a user-friendly way.

Despite its limitations, the collection is well used. In 2002/03, Lafayette had the fourth highest circulation of all branches in County Library at 205,515. This represents 4.8% of the total circulation for the entire system. Lafayette ranks second among all 23 County libraries in its circulation (30.6 items per square foot).

The analysis of the general circulation and collection statistics reveal that the library's patrons respond to the limited number of available, adequate materials by traveling to other libraries within the county for service. A review of Contra Costa County Library's annual circulation data provides relevant information on the pattern of library users by zip code. The 2003 Annual Report indicates that the existing Library primarily serves Lafayette residents, with the majority choosing to use the Lafayette Library as their primary point of service. However, more than 30% of Lafayette's patrons regularly use other libraries within the County Library system when they cannot find what they need in Lafayette. This service pattern creates barriers of access for those without automobile access or convenient use of public transit, mainly students, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

**Table W**  
**Circulation for Patrons with Library Cards Indicating a 94549 Zip Code for Year 2003**

<b><i>City Library</i></b>	<b><i>Circulation</i></b>	<b><i>Percent</i></b>
Lafayette	140,721	63.3%
Central / Pleasant Hill	27,204	12.2
Orinda	22,466	10.1

Moraga	18,842	8.5
Walnut Creek	6,953	3.1
Other Libraries	6,284	2.8

Source: Contra Costa County Library, 2003

The analysis of the adult circulation and collection statistics reveal that:

- The adult collection represents 50.5% of the library's collection and 28.8% of the library's circulation
- Materials with the highest circulation rates among nonfiction are technology, geography / history, and the arts
- Fiction materials are the most popular, representing 14.3% of the collection and 26.9% of the adult circulation
- Multimedia materials are extremely popular, comprising just 8.2% of the collection, but 43.8% of the adult circulation and 23.2% of the circulation
- The adult collection with the highest turnover rate is video fiction at 14%

In the existing library, there is no room to expand shelving for the adult collection. The library was planned over 40 years ago with a collection capacity of 15,000 books; it now contains a collection more than four times its capacity. Floor space originally intended for traffic and seating has been sacrificed to provide space for computer workstations and more shelving. Perimeter walls have 84-inch shelves to maximize space, but this makes some of the collection inaccessible to patrons without staff assistance. Book stacks within the adult areas are 72 inches high and completely full, shelf space is at a premium, and insufficient shelf space prohibits books from being displayed face-out in the preferred popular retail technique. Bookshelves are not secured for earthquake safety and present a potential safety hazard for patrons and staff. Lighting within the stack areas is old and needs to be replaced; frequent ballast failures cause dim conditions and unbalanced lighting. The space constraints are extremely severe for the multimedia collection; these materials are housed on book carts in unattractive, inconvenient and confusing displays. Carts left in the path of travel take up valuable circulation space and present a tripping hazard to patrons and staff.

The analysis of the children's circulation and collection statistics reveal that:

- The children's collection represents 31.5% of the library's collection and 36.9% of the library's circulation
- Materials with the highest circulation rates among nonfiction are natural science, mathematics, and the arts
- Fiction materials are popular representing 13.7% of the collection and 19.2% of circulation



- Multimedia materials are extremely popular comprising just 2.3% of the collection, but generating 25.6% of the circulation
- The children's collection with the highest turn rate is video fiction at 18.5%

The children's collection has the same limitations as the adult's. The Children's Area has shorter shelves to keep the collection within the convenient reach of users and to maintain visibility of the area. However, increasing the shelving height to accommodate a larger collection is not practical. Limited space within the building prevents expansion of this area, and, therefore, the community's demand for increasing the number of items in the children's collection cannot be met. Access to the collection is also restricted during story times because children have to make use of all available floor space, including that area near shelving, to participate in the program.

For teens, the collection is housed in a small room originally designed to hold special collections. The area is compact and the collection is tightly shelved. There is limited space and shelving for teen materials, and requests for more teen materials on a wide variety of subjects cannot be met. These materials cannot be added to the collection, and the library is unable to meet the academic and leisure reading needs of Lafayette's large student population.

Library programs also encourage a greater use of the collections. Current offerings include:

- A popular summer reading program to encourage recreational reading and sustain reading skills when school is not in session
- Semi-weekly story times for both infants and toddlers
- Monthly pajama story times
- Reading incentive program for teens
- Cultural, recreational and informational programs for adults

In 2002-2003, 3,013 people attended the 113 programs offered at the Library. Of these, 108 programs were for children ages 2-12. Although five adult programs were presented, no teen programs were offered.

The material collection for the LL&LC must provide an up-to-date collection of high-interest material, in-depth research services, and special collections in a variety of formats. Today's computer systems can more easily identify the most frequently used materials, but busy library users need more convenient access to collections that offer an easier browsing experience. Wider aisles and higher bottom shelves for convenient access, space for traditional and browse-able book stacks, "child-sized" shelving, adequate space of non-book media like CDs, DVDs, and videos, and re-shelving space for returned items – all of these collection space planning standards remain impossible to attain in the old library.

### **Insufficient Readers' Seating**

Although the library was originally designed for 90 seats, readers' seating has constantly been sacrificed to provide additional space for shelving and computer workstations since it opened. There are now just 64 seats in the library, primarily at tables or as lounge seats. At 2.4 seats per 1,000 people, readers' seating is 48% less than the accepted library standard of 5 seats per 1,000.

Within the adult area, there is a severe shortage of lounge seats, especially in the new materials section, making browsing difficult. There are no lounge seats available in the magazines and periodicals corner, and users are unable to sit in this area and read. Materials must be removed from these areas, carried to a table and then returned to the shelves, an inconvenience that discourages browsing.

There is no program seating available in the Children's Area. Children attending story time programs sit on available floor space in the General Circulation area, and the limited seating available in the Children's Area must be shared by young people of all ages.

There are no study carrels for students. The Young Adult Room is so small that it can only accommodate a few lounge seats, and students must use seating at tables in the General Reading Room for group study and research. Because there are no acoustical separations in the General Reading Room, noise migrates throughout the library. When students are seated at tables to work together on school assignments, they disturb other patrons.

Readers' seating is inadequate in both number and variety of seating types. Patrons need an assortment of seating options to support the range of activities for which they visit the library: table seats, carrel seats, lounge chairs, and seating at workstations. Appropriate seating for research or projects, recreational or family reading, and quiet study must be provided in sufficient numbers to permit users to efficiently and comfortably use the library. Seating within the Children's Area must also be sized appropriately for its users of various ages and sizes. While story time can be accommodated through casual seating on the floor, children still need enough floor space to assemble for the program. Specialized seating at computers, as well as in the new Homework Center, Technology Lab, and Arts and Sciences Discovery Center will be required to serve users performing tasks or training for an extended period of time. General assembly seating in the Community Room and in the outdoor amphitheater, plazas, decks and Seaborg Garden will also be required for special programs and events.

### **Insufficient Meeting Room Spaces**

The Library has no meeting space and so cannot fulfill a role as a venue in which information and knowledge is exchanged among people speaking with one another. There are no group study spaces or quiet areas. This lack hinders staff from offering special programs since these could potentially conflict with other users' quiet activities. Children's programs are held on limited floor space within the Children's Area. Likewise, all adult programs must be held in the General Reading Room, thus further reducing the available seating for others. The community has consistently requested that the LL&LC provide adequate meeting room space for large and small community meetings, small group meetings, tutoring services, group study, music programs and educational programs. The community has consistently asked that the Community Meeting Room provide a large enough space for civic meetings, programs, and other public meetings for about 140 people, and offer a separate entrance when this room is used when the rest of the LL&LC is closed. The

community has also asked that the Community Meeting Room have storage space, an AV room and a kitchen.

When asked to describe the group study rooms, adults, students and Library staff have envisioned this as space for small groups of students, staff, or the general public to work collaboratively, hold meetings or engage in quiet study. Responses during the assessment process indicate that the Community Meeting Room should also be able to provide teleconferencing equipment, Internet access, computer screen image projection, slide projection, wall-mounted video monitor display and cable TV reception. The library cannot accommodate these demands for meeting room or group study space.

### **Limited Staff Work Areas**

Staff space is also inadequate in the old library. The 5.9 full-time employees share a very overcrowded staff area. The workroom area is approximately 15 x 18 feet and provides 270 square feet of office space. In combination with the Branch Librarian's Office, there is a total of 378 square feet of staff workspace for six people. Ten to twelve volunteers provide more than 230 volunteer hours per year. These volunteers do not have assigned workspace and must share already cramped quarters. The one staff office, originally designed for only the Branch Librarian, now houses space for three people: Branch Librarian, Adult Services Librarian, and Youth Services Librarian. It also serves as storage for an assortment of materials used for children's programs. This is a cluttered, inefficient workspace. There is no other separate office to provide the needed privacy for dealing with difficult patrons, or for staff performance reviews.

A small workroom had been reconfigured to provide workstations for four employees, but lacks the necessary amount of staff equipment. Only one workspace has a computer, which is shared by all staff. There is only one telephone in the workroom, and movement around the workroom is difficult. Telephone cables, left unsecured to provide flexible phone access throughout the workroom, create a tripping hazard. The cramped space does not offer sufficient clearance for book carts. Seated employees must stop what they are doing and rise to clear a space through which traffic may pass. This cramped workspace adds to short tempers and an unpleasant work environment. A translucent screen between this area and the Circulation Desk conceals the clutter of the workroom from the view of the public. However, it also prevents staff from having an unobstructed view of the Circulation Desk and the number of patrons that may be queuing for service. Lastly, there is no space in the public area to store reserved materials. Items on hold must be shelved behind the Circulation Desk, which requires patrons to ask for staff assistance to claim materials rather than serving themselves.

There are two public service points: the Circulation Desk and the Reference Desk. The Circulation Desk is the first service point that a patron sees upon entry. While the Reference Desk is visible upon entry, patrons tend to gravitate to the larger, more imposing Circulation Desk for service. It is a large, custom-designed piece of millwork that does not meet ergonomic or ADA standards. Because it was designed and installed before automated equipment was introduced in the library, computer workstations have been added on adjacent tables. When staff works at these computers,

their backs are turned away from the public, and they are unaware of patrons seeking assistance. Staff indicates that customer service is compromised by this awkward arrangement.

There is a clear line of sight between the Reference Desk and Circulation Desk. Staff is able to maintain good visual supervision of both the General Reading Room and Children's Area from the Circulation Desk. Staff can also see beyond the Reference Desk and into the Young Adult area. The Reference Desk is smaller, but readily visible from the entry. Although it is not ADA-compliant, it is less intimidating for patrons to approach.

### **Inability to Keep up with Technology**

Despite its severe space limitations, the library has augmented some of its services by adding technology. Public computers provide access to the online catalog, electronic databases and the Internet. The County Library's technology program has allowed users to become more self-sufficient by offering:

- Library services from any location
- Electronic resources that include newspapers and magazines
- Specialized resources and databases on a variety of subjects
- Electronic request and renewal of library materials
- E-mail notification of material availability
- Suggestions for material acquisitions
- Information services

The library also provides links to information of interest to students with homework assignments. Self-sufficiency is also encouraged by the availability of self-check machines, which reduces the need for the staff to perform routine tasks and frees them to provide a higher level of public service.

Unfortunately, the library was built before computer technology was introduced. In 1962, a telephone was considered to be cutting edge technology. Computers have been placed in spaces that were originally intended for other functions, like browsing space and seating. The result is less than optimal. In addition to having lost readers' seating, the current 12 computers (only 1 per 2,179 people) are scattered in areas not designed for the electrical, wiring, or equipment maintenance requirements. These computers are heavily used, and the resulting line of waiting patrons further exacerbates overcrowded space issues. Adequate technology is essential to supporting the community's general needs, and especially the learning needs of the student population.

Students, teachers and parents in Lafayette have strongly expressed the need for more computers, not only for research but also for word processing. As part of the discussions regarding joint venture programs, the Library has been asked to offer computer literacy workshops and instructional activities in the LL&LC's Technology Lab for the students, teachers and parents of the

Lafayette School District and Acalanes High School. Classes requested include:

- Introduction to the library's web site and its many online resources
- How to search the Internet and identify legitimate web sites for student research
- How to use application software, such as Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint
- How to study for the SATs and other test-taking skills

This community is technologically savvy, receptive to technological advances, and has an expectation that the library will meet their information and technology needs. Further, major service changes are being planned for the County Library that will impact the need for additional technology in local community libraries. Instead of patrons being referred to the Central Library in Pleasant Hill for more in-depth research, a greater number of resources must be made available on-site for immediate delivery. This will mean that a greater number of databases, requiring an appropriate number of technology access points, must be available to accommodate patron use of these databases. This change will also affect the level of computer sophistication that will be required of patrons, making Lafayette's demand for a Technology Lab all the more critical.

Library users also have high expectations when it comes to the use of technology in the library. They expect fast connection, up-to-date hardware, equipment and software reliability, the most current software, adequate peripheral equipment, and assistive devices. But the Library cannot meet these users' expectations. The building's size and electrical distribution system will not support additional or future technology improvements. Today computers are generally clustered in an area adjacent to the Information Desk, and there are no computers in the Children's Area. The community does not have access to a computer or technology lab at the Library, nor are there any teleconferencing opportunities, since there is no community room. All of these service requests, by both the general public and the schools, cannot be met in the existing Library.

## **PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF THE LAFAYETTE LIBRARY**

### **Executive Summary**

The existing Lafayette Library is physically and functionally inadequate because:

- It does not comply with structural building codes
- The building is not built or equipped to meet modern seismic standards
- The building leaks heat and wastes energy
- Health and safety hazards are created by the presence of asbestos and the lack of fire safety systems
- Extremely poor acoustics make it difficult for patrons and employees to use the library
- The space is not flexible or expandable
- Poorly designed spaces and spatial relationships hamper library operations
- The library lacks aesthetic appeal
- The building has low site visibility
- The site has poor automobile access
- The library site has poor drainage and the site is too small

A report by John Lyon Reid & Associates in 1969 determined that...*the existing building was only one-half of the desired size for today's population, the book collection is 75% larger than the building was planned for, and circulation has increased over 100% since the building was opened (in 1962).*

In November 1996, Arthur Tam & Associates conducted a feasibility study for the Lafayette School District to determine whether the existing Library building could be converted for school administrative offices. Board members noted the *significant code improvements, needed improvements to the electrical distribution system, and the required replacement of the heating and air conditioning systems* that would be required, concluding that...*the most cost-effective alternative is to raze the building and rebuild.*

## **An Outdated Building**

The library was built as a single story, 6,720-square foot building constructed of brick veneer over wood frame and steel trusses. Featuring large clerestory windows and a flat roof, this building served the community for 42 years without any major renovations or improvements. The building does not meet structural building code requirements or the functional requirements of a modern library. The 1969 assessment commissioned by the Lafayette Library Association determined that the Library was already inadequate to meet Lafayette's needs in terms of space, collections and circulation – only seven years after it opened.

After a 1996 feasibility study concluded that the old library could not be efficiently reused, Lafayette School District Board members determined that the most cost-effective alternative was to demolish the library and build a new office building.

### **Structural Deficiencies**

Major structural upgrades are required to bring the building up to code. All connections between beams and columns require strengthening to meet seismic requirements. The exterior walls, a combination of brick and wood panels, have dry rot. The exterior window walls on both the east and west faces of the lower building also require rebuilding due to excessive weathering. There is also the need to improve seismic performance by, for example, securing the shelving.

### **Energy Waste**

The building lacks modern energy efficiency features. There is poor energy conservation due to inefficient fluorescent lighting, an outdated HVAC system, poor glazing and inadequate insulation. The building does not meet current Title 24 energy conservation requirements.

The HVAC system has outlived its useful life. While it has been maintained and repaired over the years, the air-handling units are old and not designed to meet current Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) standards for efficiency. Thermostats are manual and subject to inconsistent settings. The entire HVAC system needs to be replaced, new ductwork installed, and a new rooftop VAV and boiler system installed with multi-zones for better distribution. Large expanses of glass provide a fair amount of natural light, but the windows are not insulated, experience significant heat loss in winter, and leak cooled air in the summer.

All the light fixtures require replacement, a new electrical distribution system, and additional conduits are needed. The fluorescent lighting is outdated and does not meet current requirements, nor does the mounting height of light switches meet ADA requirements. There are not enough electrical outlets in areas convenient for staff or patrons to use for electronic devices. The ability of the library to meet the demands of its users is severely limited by the lack of electrical capacity. Electrical circuits have been added to support computer workstations and other equipment. But electrical systems have still been at full capacity since 1996, and now require a major upgrade.

## **Health and Safety Hazards**

Asbestos must be removed from ceilings and walls. Worn and frayed carpeting, much of it dating back to 1962, creates a tripping hazard, as do snaking cables and wires. The potential for fire is great due to the lack of any automatic sprinkler systems or fire alarm systems. Although there are smoke detectors installed in the building, these are only linked to an alarm system and emergency lighting. The book drop return is not fire-rated and is vulnerable to vandalism. Most of the library's furniture, fixtures, and finishes are more than forty years old. The interior is worn, and suffers from overuse and lack of adequate maintenance. The building is not in compliance with minimum ADA requirements, including doorways, hallways, stack space, restrooms, and fixtures. Overcrowded shelving units throughout the building create a danger from falling books. Pedestrian safety is further compromised by the site's poor visibility and traffic congestion.

## **Inaccessible to the Disabled**

The Library does not comply with ADA requirements because of unsafe and inaccessible facilities. Significant obstacles remain despite the Library's efforts to make modifications, such as the installation of automatic door openers on the exterior doors. Both the public and staff restrooms are inadequate and too small to permit wheelchairs. Aisle widths hamper wheelchair use. Telephones, drinking fountains, shelves, staff restrooms and the kitchenette are also not compliant with the Americans for Disabilities Act. Primary public service points at the Circulation and Reference Desks are noncompliant. No required visual strobe devices have been installed in the restrooms, corridors or reading areas.

*Although I live next door to the Library, it is difficult to get to the front door, and while I can get the front door open, I cannot get inside. -- Comment from disabled Library patron, 1999*

## **Noisy Acoustics**

The large T-shape floor plan with its high ceilings and hard interior surfaces causes sounds to bounce and reflect. There are no acoustically buffered areas, and this deficiency has created unacceptable high levels of noise throughout the library.

## **Space Inflexibility and Limitations**

At 6,720 square feet, 19,863 square feet less than the LL&LC, the library offers neither flexibility nor expandability. Not only is all the space used; it is over-used. There are no meeting rooms, staff work areas must serve multiple and often-conflicting purposes, and children's programs must be held on the floor in open areas.

## **Dysfunctional Spatial Relationships**



The extreme lack of space within the building, together with the overuse of the space, creates numerous examples of non-functional spatial relationships. The book collection outgrew its space by 75% in 1969, and today exceeds its allotted spatial capacity by 203%. Collections and readers' seating have been squeezed into areas that block access to both, making it difficult to walk around, maneuver in a wheelchair, and locate shelved materials. The patrons queue up to check out materials at the Circulation Desk, which is also crowded by overflowing trucks of returned materials waiting re-shelving. Further, this queue is hidden by poor sight lines, further stressing good customer service. An insufficient number of computer workstations are crowded together, preventing more than one person to sit at any time, thus inhibiting collaborative learning or technology training.

### **A Flawed and Constricted Site**

Although it is conveniently located near schools, the 0.73-acre site is too small by even 1960s standards for a modern library. Despite its location on Moraga Road, the Library has off-site poor visibility and it is difficult to access by automobile.

The Library driveway is challenging to negotiate. Automobiles trying to make a left-turn from Moraga Road into the Library's driveway have to stop on this very busy road and cross two lanes of rapidly moving traffic without a protected turn lane or control light. Entry is further confused by one large curb cut that serves two adjoining driveways. Confused drivers often bypass the library, and instead turn into the driveway of the adjacent Lafayette Elementary School.

With only 46 parking stalls and poor parking lot circulation, traffic congestion occurs both on- and off-site. Pedestrians and automobiles must share this congested, hard-to-see space which possess safety hazards for anyone within the lot. Patrons coming from the parking lot have to cross the driveway again to enter the library. This combination of cars and pedestrians in a highly congested area, with conflicting paths of travel and poor visibility, contribute to a dangerous entry.

Site drainage is poor, roof water discharges onto landscaped and hardscaped areas around the building, and pools of standing water remain after a hard rain.

Finally, the site is bounded by Moraga Road to the west, a medical office building to the north, and Lafayette Elementary School to the east and south. There is no room for expanding the existing building and maintain adequate parking.

## **SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **Executive Summary**

Lafayette needs a new library as it has long-outgrown its cramped and outdated old library. Lafayette needs a new library to meet the current and future needs of its children and to encourage learning among all of the generations who reside in the community. Finally, Lafayette needs a home for the unique and rich library partnerships and programs that will be offered via The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium. It needs the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.

Through this assessment, it has been determined that Lafayette needs a facility with approximately 26,545 gross square feet, with the following spaces allocated to various services and functions:

- A collection of 89,000 to 95,000 books and audiovisual materials
- 42 public computers, a Technology Lab and a Homework Center, and laptop access and wireless connectivity throughout the facility
- 186 seats including 18 seats in three group study rooms and 12 seats in a Homework Center
- A community meeting and program room to seat 142
- A storytelling and class visit space for 30 children
- A unique Library Arts & Science Discovery Center for children and youth that will host 36 to 60 participants in an ongoing program of exciting activities that explore the sciences

**Table X  
Summary of Space Needs**

<b>Space</b>		<b>SF Needed</b>	
1.1	Lobby / Entrance	366	
1.2	Community Meeting Room	1,639	
1.21	AV Production / Control Room	90	
1.3	Meeting Room Storage	214	
1.4	Serving Kitchen	158	
1.5	Exhibit Gallery/Display Space	264	
1.6	Library Arts & Science Discovery Center	670	
1.7	Library Arts & Science Discovery Center Prep & Work Space	376	
1.8	Public Restrooms	in GSF	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>3,777</b>
2.1	Accounts Desk	162	
2.2	Express Check-out and Reserves	197	
2.3	Material Return Drops - Lobby/Interior – Included in Space 5.1	0	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>359</b>

Space		SF Needed	
3.1	New Materials Browsing	254	
3.2	Audiovisual Media Collection	250	
3.3	Information Desk	133	
3.4	Reference Collection	511	
3.5	Public Computers for Adults and Teens	456	
3.6	Adult Fiction Collection	1,092	
3.7	Adult Nonfiction Collection	1,699	
3.8	Periodicals and Newspapers	629	
3.9	Lafayette Heritage Collection	323	
3.10	Teen Area	629	
3.11	Group Study Room A	120	
3.12	Group Study Room B	120	
3.13	Group Study Room C	120	
3.14	Technology Lab	406	
3.15	Homework Center	675	
3.16	Copy Machines	110	
3.17	Community Information / Handouts	30	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>7,557</b>
4.1	Children's Computers	246	
4.2	Picture Books	674	
4.3	Family Reading/Children's New Books & Magazines	185	
4.4	Storytelling Space	354	
4.5	Programming Storage	47	
4.6	Children's Fiction, Languages, Paperbacks	736	
4.7	Children's Nonfiction Collection	961	
4.8	Children's Audiovisual Media	175	
4.9	Family Restroom	in GSF	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>3,378</b>
5.1	Staff Work Room/Sorting and Returns	1,367	
5.2	Library Manager Office	156	
5.3	Telecommunication/Server Room	125	
5.4	Shipping and Receiving/Staff and Delivery Entrance	164	
5.5	Storage and Supplies	132	
5.6	Custodial/Maintenance Supplies	75	
5.7	Staff Lounge	372	
5.8	Staff Restrooms	in GSF	
5.9	Material Return Drops - Garage/Exterior	240	
5.10	Storage, Garage Level	145	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>2,776</b>
	<b>Total Net Assignable Square Feet</b>		<b>17,847</b>
6.1	Friends of the Library Book Sale and Sorting	1,201	
6.2	Friends of the Library Workspace	237	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>1,438</b>
6.3	Lafayette Historical Society Room	445	
6.4	Lafayette Historical Society Closed Storage	216	
6.5	Historic Fire Truck Display	230	

Space	SF Needed	
	Sub-Total	891
	Total for Friends and LHS	2,329
Net Assignable Square Feet @ 76% Net-to-Gross		20,175
Gross Square Feet		26,545

Source: Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building

Program

Please see [The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Building Program](#) for a full description of the results of this space needs assessment.

## Collections and Shelving

An initial target collection of 89,100 items is recommended for the LL&LC. This will give the community access to approximately 3.7 volumes per capita. This is in line with recognized library planning standards such as those developed by Joseph Wheeler as well as the State of Wisconsin's volumes per capita standards for public libraries. These items will 77,963 books and 11,137 audiovisual items. The book collection should be allocated as follows – 35% to children's materials, 62% to materials for adults and 3% to materials for teens. This distribution will allow the LL&LC to offer a well-balanced selection of materials that will meet the needs of K-12 children as well as all other ages. These needs are described in the **Analysis of Library Service Needs** on page 81 herein. The service bases for these allocations are outlined in [Appendix A. Collections Growth Path, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program](#).

Space allocations for shelving are based on the Library Administration and Management Association's guidebook, [Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space](#). Each single-sided shelving section is allocated 10.3 square feet. Retail display-type shelving units are allocated 25 square feet each and are treated as furniture. Assumptions regarding the number of items per linear foot of shelving and per shelving unit vary by type of material, height of the unit and type of shelving. Each of these assumptions is described more fully in the [Appendix B. Collections and Shelving Needs, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program](#).

## Reader Seats

The recommended seating is 186 seats. These are allocated as follows:

- Adults
  - 20 lounge seats
  - 42 seats at tables or carrels
- Teens
  - 4 lounge seats
  - 12 seats at tables

- Children
  - 2 lounge seats
  - 36 seats at tables
- Group Study
  - 18 at tables
- Library Arts & Science Discovery Center
  - 36 at tables
- Homework Center
  - 16 at tables

In addition, the Community Meeting Room will have the capacity for 142 lecture-style seating and the Storytelling Space will have floor seating for 30 children and adults.

Seats at 4-place rectangular tables have been allocated 25 square feet per seat. Lounge seating has been allocated 35 square feet per seat. Seats at 1-place carrels have been allocated 30 square feet per seat. Each toddler seat and each seat at a 4-place round table has been allocated 22 square feet. These allocations are in line with Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space noted above. Additional details regarding seating allocations are provided in Appendix C. General Reader Seating Needs, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program.

## Technology

Forty-two public access computers are recommended for the LL&LC:

- General Access Computers
  - 12 public near Service Desks
  - 10 in Children's Services area
  - 4 in Adult Services area
  - 2 in Teen area
- Training and Tutoring Computers
  - 10 in Technology Lab
  - 4 in Homework Center

The bases for these recommendations are described in **Analysis of Library Service Needs** on page 81 herein.

In addition to public computers, other technology needs have been met:

- Workstations have been planned for staff at each service desk and on each staff desk in the workroom. A Telecommunication / Server Room of 125 square feet will be provided.

- Sit-down computers have each been allocated 35 square feet. A print management system with shared print-release stations and print pay stations will be provided for each group of public access computers.
- Each service desk staffing point is allocated 50 square feet. This includes the counter space, as well as space on both side of the service counter for staff and public to interact. Queuing space is counted separately.
- Electrical and data connections at each table seat in the public space are recommended to allow customers to conveniently use computer equipment they bring into the building as well as library-supplied equipment.
- The building should be designed to be wireless-friendly to allow customers and staff to make use of wireless equipment now and in the future.

Additional details regarding technology needs and recommendations are included in Appendix D. Public Computer and Equipment Needs, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program.

## Staff Offices and Workstations

The Lafayette Library & Learning Center will be open for the public and for students 60 hours per week, six days per week. This is an increase over the 40 hours the existing library is open. The schedule will be as follows:

**Table Y**  
**Schedule of Hours for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center**

Monday	10am – 9pm
Tuesday	10am – 9pm
Wednesday	10am – 9pm
Thursday	10am – 9pm
Friday	10am – 6pm
Saturday	10am – 6pm

*Among the  
City of Lafayette, the  
District, and the Acalanes Union High  
School District for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center*

*Source: Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement  
Contra Costa County Library, the  
Lafayette School*

The staffing levels at the LL&LC will be:

**Table Z**  
**Staffing Levels for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center**

Senior Branch Librarian	1.0 FTE
Adult Services Librarian	1.0 FTE
Teen Services Librarian	1.0 FTE
Youth Services Librarian	1.0 FTE
Programs Coordinator	1.0 FTE

Homework Center Coordinator	0.5 FTE
Library Assistants	2.0 FTE
Clerks	2.5 FTE
Library Student Assistants	90 hours

Among the  
City of Lafayette, the  
District, and the Acalanes Union High  
School District for the Lafayette Library & Learning Center

Source: Joint Venture Cooperative Agreement  
Contra Costa County Library, the  
Lafayette School

These staffing levels will require the following space needs:

**Table AA**  
**Staffing Space Needs at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center**

<b>FTE</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Workstation</b>
1.0	Senior Branch Librarian	1 private office
4.5	Professional Staff	6 modular units, 8' x 7'
4.5	Library Assistants, Clerks	4 modular units, 6' x 6'
10.0	Total	1 office; 10 modular units

The Senior Branch Librarian (Library Manager) will need a private office to conduct confidential conversations with individual staff members or to hold small meetings. An office of 156 square feet is recommended for this Branch Librarian to accommodate that person's desk, computer, task chair, shelving, lateral files, a small conference table, and guest chairs.

For additional details regarding the staff work space needs, see Space 5.1. Staff Work Room / Sorting and Returns, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program on page 118.

### **Meeting / Programming and Special Purpose Space**

A 142-seat meeting room is recommended for the LL&LC. The meeting room seating has been allocated twelve square feet per seat in a lecture-style seating arrangement. This allocation matches the square feet per seat guideline recommended in Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space noted above. A storytelling space that accommodates 30 children and their parents in the Children's Services area has been allocated 10 square feet per child.

The LL&LC's special purpose spaces include the Library Arts & Sciences Discovery Center and the Homework Center. The Library Arts & Sciences Discovery Center will be an active space in which K-12 children will participate in a wide variety of group activities. Examples of such activities are included in description of **The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium** on page 49 herein. Seating in the Center will be at six 6-person worktables, each table allocated 75 square feet. For additional details regarding the needs for this space, see Space 1.6. Library Arts & Science Discovery Center, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program on page 45.

Computer workstations in the Homework Center have been allocated 35 square feet each. Seating has been allocated at 25 square feet each.

### Non-Assignable Space

This needs assessment recommends a total building size of 26,545 gross square feet on three levels. A 76% efficiency ratio is assumed for the building – providing 20,175 net assignable square feet that can be used for seating, shelving, computers, service desks and staff work areas. Of the gross square footage, 24% (6,370 square feet) has been set aside as non-assignable space. This includes the building's mechanical systems, telecommunication / server room, electrical closets, storage spaces, restrooms, circulation space throughout the facility. The net-to-gross square footage ratio used is based on the standards Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space described above.

**Table BB**  
**Square Footage Conversion Factors**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Conversion Factor</i>
Shelving, single-sided section, 3' wide	10.3 SF / section
<b>Volumes per Linear Foot</b>	
Books, adult, fiction and nonfiction	8 volumes / linear foot
Books, reference	7 volumes / linear foot
Books, large type	8 volumes / linear foot
Books, new & bestsellers	6.5 volumes / linear foot
Books, International languages	10 volumes / linear foot
Books, paperback, adult & young adult	16 volumes / linear foot
Books, young adult hardbks, fiction & nonfiction	10 volumes / linear foot
Books, young adult new display	5 volumes / linear foot
Books, Lafayette Heritage/local docs/genealogy	7 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's fiction and nonfiction	10 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's easy readers	15 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's picture books/folk tales/Board books	15 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's reference	7 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's new	6.5 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's paperbacks	16 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's fiction, nonfiction & biographies	10 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's genre, mysteries, scifi, series	10 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's holiday/seasonal	10 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's international languages	15 volumes / linear foot
Books, children's parents	8 volumes / linear foot
<b>Audiovisual Media</b>	
Videos, feature & recreational	7 volumes / linear foot
Videos & DVDs, nonfiction	8 volumes / linear foot
DVDs, feature & recreational	12 volumes / linear foot
Books on tape & books on CD, adult fiction	7 volumes / linear foot
Books on tape & books on CD, adult nonfiction	8 volumes / linear foot
Music CDs, all	20 volumes / linear foot
Language learning, adult	7 volumes / linear foot
Videos, children's	7 volumes / linear foot
DVDs, children's	12 volumes / linear foot



<b>Item</b>	<b>Conversion Factor</b>
Books on tape & books on CD, children's	8 volumes / linear foot
AV kits	6 volumes / linear foot
CD-ROM software, children's	7 volumes / linear foot
Magazines, , adult, young adult & children's, parenting	1 title / linear foot
Magazines, backfiles, including genealogy	2.5 titles / linear foot
Newspapers, display & backfiles	1 title / 1.5 linear foot
<b>Seating</b>	
@ 4-place table	25 SF / seat
@ 4-place table round toddler table	22 SF / seat
@ 2-place table	25 SF / seat
@ 1-place table or carrel	30 SF / seat
@ conference tables	20 SF / seat
Lounge chair, 1 person	35 SF / seat
Lounge chair, oversize	40 SF / seat
Stacking chairs	12 SF / seat
Storytelling (floor) seating	10 SF / seat
<b>Computers and Other Equipment</b>	
Copy machines, color & Standard b & w	45 SF / workstation
Public access computer, sit-down	35 SF / workstation
Public access computer, sit-down, Technology Lab	40 SF / workstation
Public access workstation, stand-up	25 SF / workstation
Printers	6 SF / workstation
Print release station	6 SF / workstation
Express check-out station	45 SF / workstation
Staff office system workstations, 6' x 6" + 25%	45 SF / workstation
Staff office system workstations, 8' x 7' + 25%	70 SF / workstation

Source: Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program

Please see the Lafayette Library & Learning Center Building Program for information about the Friends of the Library and Lafayette Historical Society spaces.

